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[WITH A SUPPLEMENT, FIVEPENCE.]

THE MAYNOOTH DEBATE.

A NEW war has commenced—a war infinitely more bitter, more damaging, and more deplorable than the war with Russia, which has just been brought to a premature and perhaps unsatisfactory conclusion. Mr. Spooner, a theological zealot, backed unfortunately by a large party in the House of Commons, has declared open war against the religion of six millions of his fellow-subjects in Ireland; has prevailed upon a temporary majority of the House to insult that faith and its priesthood; and to undo, in so far as a decision of one branch of the Legislature can undo it, the beneficent work of the last six years in a country that only needs repose from theological strife to learn how to prosper. The Government vainly opposed Mr. Spooner's motion for the disendowment of Maynooth; and has suffered the disgrace of defeat upon a question on the decision of which it ought to have staked its existence. Of course we cannot imagine anything so preposterous and so mischievous as that the House should ultimately pass the bill which Mr. Spooner has received permission to introduce; but that it should so far have encouraged the theological rancour of those who care nothing for justice, nothing for peace, nothing for charity, nothing for the consciences of

those who differ from them, provided all these be placed in the balance against their own religious convictions, is a matter no less of scandal than of regret. Worse, far worse, than foreign war is the civil warfare of Religion. Ireland—that might be, and was rapidly becoming, a source of strength—will become once more a source of weakness to Great Britain, if means be not promptly taken to repudiate the motion of Mr. Spooner to which, in an evil hour, the House of Commons has lent its countenance. What foreign potentate in the world, whatever his armies or his fleets, has it in his power to loosen the allegiance of six millions of British subjects? Not one. But what all the coalitions of Europe and America would be powerless to effect may be effected by religious hate, if its progress be not checked by that Assembly which, through inadvertence rather than from determination, has allowed it to achieve this temporary, but most unfortunate, triumph.

The question of the endowment of Maynooth must not be treated as a theological one. The House of Commons has nothing to do with theology, and is in no sense or way a theological body, or competent to discuss theological subjects. Part of its members are Protestant, considerable numbers are Roman Catholic, and many belong to sections of Protestantism which would, if they had the power, be as ready to destroy the Church

of England as the Church of Rome. While the House keeps clear of religion, respects the consciences of those who differ from it, and comports itself as a purely secular body, charged with the making of temporal laws for a mighty nation, which has abolished all religious disabilities affecting Christians, and every disability but one affecting Jews, it conforms to the spirit no less than to the letter of the Constitution under which it is elected. But when it affixes, or attempts to affix, a stigma upon, and to break a solemn compact entered into with, millions of people who have the same right to be Roman Catholics that any member of the House of Commons has to be Protestant, it not only attempts to violate the Constitution, but does so in a manner the most pernicious. If Roman Catholicism were as powerful in Parliament as Mr. Spooner was on Tuesday night, Roman Catholicism might decree that Spooner was a nuisance which ought to be abated; that he was not a fit person to be intrusted with the electoral franchise or with a seat in the House of Commons; or, going still further, it might decree that he should be immured for life in a dungeon, or publicly branded as a dangerous heretic and enemy of the true faith. How would Mr. Spooner and his friends like that? Would they not lustily cry out against the persecution? Have the divine words never fructified in the



BLUE DIVISION. "BRUNSWICK," CAPTAIN YELVERTON. WHITE DIVISION. "COLOSSUS," CAPTAIN KEPPEL. RED DIVISION. "ALGIERS," CAPTAIN CODRINGTON. LIGHT DIVISION. "SANS-PAREIL," CAPTAIN KEY. THE APPROACHING NAVAL REVIEW.—H.M. DIVISIONAL SHIPS OF THE GUN-BOAT FLOTILLA, AT MOORINGS OFF RYDE.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)



minds of such persons, that "with what measure ye mete, it shall be meted to you again"? It should be sufficient to them to be at peace with their own consciences, without troubling themselves about the consciences of others, who have the same right to their belief, and to their civil and religious liberties, that they have.

Certainly it may be wrong to pay for the education of Roman Catholic priests out of the public money. We will not take it upon ourselves to assert that it is right, or that if no one had ever thought of endowing Maynooth we should have been very grateful to the person who first brought forward the proposition. But it is as clear as noon, or clearer, that if it be wrong to pay a small sum of the public money for the education of the poor priests of six millions of Irishmen, it is equally wrong, if not far more so, to pay large sums for the support of a Church in the same country which is not the Church of the people, and which scarcely numbers one million of adherents. If the grant to Maynooth be rescinded, the doom of the Protestant Church in Ireland will be sealed. Mr. Spooner, perhaps, does not see the connection between the two, but there are many millions of persons in England who do, and who desire nothing better than to cut religion adrift from all connection with the State, and to leave the Protestant Church in Ireland to stand or fall by the voluntary offerings of its own congregations. Voluntaryism has achieved one great triumph this Session, in the defeat of Lord John Russell's Educational Bill; but voluntaryism in the matter of Maynooth would be the first, and no inconsiderable, step to something far more serious—the downfall of the Protestant Church of Ireland. How long the Protestant Church of England would maintain its State connection after such an event in the neighbouring country is not our present purpose to discuss; for we believe there is sufficient good sense and true patriotism in the present House of Commons to undo Mr. Spooner's work, and to consign his bill to the limbo of all other Parliamentary crudities, absurdities, and mistakes—the waste-paper basket of the House. We wish it were as easy to undo the moral effect of his victory upon the minds of the Irish people. When the State wants money, or soldiers, it never asks or cares whether the taxpayer or the hero be a Protestant or a Roman Catholic; and it is rather too bad that ere the peace be well declared, which the money and the valour of all classes and sections of the people have won, theological bigotry should let out the waters of strife in a new direction, and insult a third part of the empire.

We do not hold the Government blameless in this matter. It had no business to be defeated. It was its duty to triumph over Mr. Spooner. But now that it has been caught sleeping it is more than ever its duty to be on the alert, and to give a final quietus to the unhappy agitation which it has allowed to assume such unlooked-for proportions. It is the duty of the Government to speak boldly out, and to stake its existence, or that of the present House of Commons, on the stability of the solemn contract made in 1845 by Sir Robert Peel. The question of Maynooth is not a religious one, though it may suit the purpose of Mr. Spooner and his friends to treat it as such. It is a question of national policy and good faith. The country that has just spent a hundred millions sterling, and shed the blood of thousands of its bravest sons, in order that Turkey should be admitted into the European system, is not the country, one would think, to reject from its own political system one-third of its loyal and well-disposed subjects, because it suits the prejudice of another portion of its subjects to treat the Roman Catholic faith as heresy and error. Could we believe that the House would sanction any further proceedings in the matter, or that the Ministry would not immediately end the scandal by a display of its authority, we should rejoice at the day which should end both the Parliament and the Ministry, and replace both by a Legislature and Executive more in accordance with justice and with decency.

H.M. DIVISIONAL SHIPS OF THE GUN-BOAT FLOTILLA OFF RYDE.

The flotilla of gun-boats to which the ships in our Illustration belong consists of four divisions—each division numbering about fifty boats—and respectively named the red, white, blue, and light divisions; the three first divisions have their funnels, mastsheads, &c., painted the colours of the division to which they belong, and the light division is distinguished from the others by having the mastsheads painted with black and white bands. All the boats are high pressure, and, when under steam, present a most extraordinary and singular appearance; all the divisional ships are noble screw-vessels. The *Algiers*, red division ship, is of 91 guns, the *Colossus*, white division, 81 guns; the *Brunswick*, blue division, 81 guns; and the light division ship *Sanspareil*, 71 guns.

CLIFFORD'S NEW METHOD OF LOWERING SHIPS' BOATS AT SEA.

In the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS of 1st March we drew attention to this important invention, and gave the very strong report in its favour of Captain Schomburg, R.N., the Emigration Officer of Liverpool, as made to her Majesty's Emigration Commissioners in Park-street, after experiments made by him for four days successively, at their instructions, from Messrs. Baines' splendid ship, the *Commodore Perry*, in the Mersey. In consequence of the favourable result of further trials at sea, at his suggestion, under Captain Westbrook, R.N., the Commissioners have now made its adoption compulsory in all vessels chartered by them for the conveyance of emigrants abroad. The determination the Commissioners have shown in the matter cannot be too highly applauded; as it was not till after repeated trials at London, Liverpool, Southampton, and Plymouth, all conducing to the same satisfactory results, that they caused its use in two boats carried by every ship they hire, to form a clause in their "charterparty" as it now stands with the shipowner. It is to be hoped that the same course will be taken with respect to transport that obtains in emigrant ships. Surely our brave officers and soldiers returning to their native shores after their sufferings and privations deserve equal care and consideration with the emigrant and the parish pauper. The sad fate of the hundreds lost on board the *Birkenhead* and *Europa* are still fresh in our memories, and the official report at the time stated that "all might have been saved had time permitted for launching the boats." God forbid we should be found hereafter to be prophets, but it shall not deter us from giving a warning whilst there is time, and with this view we would ask the transport service to follow the praiseworthy and humane example of her Majesty's Emigration Commissioners.

MISSING FRIENDS IN AUSTRALIA.—In the advertising columns of most of the Australian papers a prominent place is given to notices of "missing friends," of whom there appears to be an immense number in that region. In this country, also, there is an active agency at work with a view to assist those who wish to obtain intelligence of missing friends and relatives, or to send information to them. A broadsheet is published once a month by Mr. Curtis, of Finsbury-street, consisting of an alphabetical list of persons who have gone to Australia and New Zealand and have not been heard of for some time. In many cases some reason is given, such as "money has been left," why information is required. These lists are forwarded monthly to the Australasian colonies, where they will, no doubt, be read with as much interest by many a wanderer as any of our newspapers.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

CLOSE OF THE PARIS CONGRESS.

The *Moniteur* of Thursday announces that the Congress of Paris terminated its labours on Wednesday, at the Hotel of the Minister of Foreign Affairs. After the signing of the treaty, it is stated, the Plenipotentiaries had still to occupy themselves with different questions of a nature to consolidate and complete the work of peace. The ratifications will be exchanged at the end of the month. Immediately after the promulgation of the general treaty the protocols will be published, and will make known the labours of the Congress in detail.

A despatch from Paris, April 16, in the *Morning Post*, says:—

The sittings of the Congress terminated to-day. The members were occupied with questions of detail in reference to—

1. The free navigation of the Danube.
 2. The interior régime of the Principalities, and the arrangement of the frontiers.
 3. The Situation of the Christians in Turkey.
- For these purposes three Commissions are appointed:—
1. A Commission, named by all the Powers represented at the Congress, on the subject of the Danube.
 2. A Commission, named by all the Powers except Piedmont, on the Frontier question.
 3. A Commission, named by all the Powers, with the addition of delegates from the Divan, to consider the position of the Christians.

INSURRECTION IN TURKEY.

A telegraphic despatch announces that an insurrection has broken out at Belgradchick, in Bulgaria, near the Serbian frontier. A Bulgarian, formerly an officer in the Russian service, professes an intention to expel the Turks in the name of Russia. He is at the head of two or three hundred men.

THREATENING ASPECT OF AFFAIRS IN ITALY.

Letters from Central Italy say that the excitement to learn the decision of the Congress on Italian affairs is most intense there; and that, should the judgment be adverse to all their hopes, the disappointment of the people will be proportionately bitter, and, in despair of ever obtaining justice by such means, they are extremely likely to follow the counsels of the wildest Republican leaders, who are now, as always, active and ready to take advantage of any circumstance to exasperate the multitude against the Moderate party, even though in so doing they play the game of Austria and Rome.

The conduct of General Crenneville at Parma is universally condemned. Not content with administering military law with all the force of despotic power and summary punishments, he now tramples on every vestige of independence belonging to the Parmesan Government. Arrests on suspicion have lately been made on a large scale. Of those arrested many are kept in confinement, and few liberated; and one night last week thirty persons who had not even undergone an examination were taken from the gaol at Parma, and sent off in carriages, under escort, to Mantua. The excuses for this arbitrary proceeding is that the individuals were *mauvais sujets*, and therefore dangerous to society, on which plea an Austrian General ventures to capture the citizens of a neighbouring State, and transport them to an Austrian fortress! General Crenneville is about to take military possession of other points of the Parma territory—viz., the fortified places of Bardi and Compiono, and the open town of Pontremoli, all towards the western and the south-western frontier, where no crime or disturbance has given the slightest colour to an apology for such occupation.

THE INSURRECTION AT VALENCIA.

The Madrid journals of the 9th and 10th inst. contain details of the insurrection at Valencia on the 6th of April. In the morning of that day, whilst the municipality was proceeding to draw for the conscription, a numerous body of insurgents rushed in, crying, "Down with the authorities! No conscription!" and, amidst threats of death to the members of the municipality, proceeded to break the urns. The Alcalde, who attempted to restore order, was fired at several times. The insurgents were headed by firemen and national guards, but were for the most part labourers from the railway. After expelling the Mayor and his colleagues from the building, the insurgents proceeded to the Plaza San Francisco. The Captain-General, hearing of what had taken place, published a bando; but, as it produced no effect, he marched against the insurgents at the head of a column of 200 infantry, 50 cavalry, and 4 pieces of artillery. The insurgents, who were in the balconies and windows, received him with a sharp fire, which caused him some loss, and he fired his cannon against them; but the insurgents resisted desperately, and bands of them spread over the city and attacked several guardhouses. After three hours' combat, in which the cavalry took part, the insurgents were dislodged from the houses, and were compelled to retreat. The number of killed and wounded on both sides was about forty; and it is now said that amongst the slain were six soldiers and a Lieutenant.

A Barcelona paper, the *Progreso*, says that the insurgents erected a barricade in the Calle de Carniceres, and that 300 of them defended it with such energy that it was not carried without "great loss," both amongst them and the troops. It says also that their rallying cry was "Vive España! Vive liberty!" General Villalonga, the Captain-General of the city and province, published, on the 7th, an address to the National Guard, exhorting them to co-operate with the troops in preserving order. On the 8th a Military Commission was instituted, and 180 insurgents captured with arms in their hands had been taken before it. The greater part were sent to the fort of Muroviedo; the others were detained to be otherwise dealt with. Troops arrived in the city from Barcelona on the 9th, and others had been dispatched from Madrid. The last telegraphic accounts published in the *Gazette* announced that tranquillity continued; but that groups, displaying considerable agitation, persisted in remaining in the streets.

The *Epoca* says that the movement of Valencia had ramifications at Murcia, Cartagena, and Barcelona.

AMERICA.

By the arrival of the *Persia* steam-ship, at Liverpool, on the 12th inst., we have news from New York to the 2nd inst.

The news from Nicaragua is of a highly interesting character. Costa Rica had declared war. General Walker, in reply, had issued a proclamation stating that the Democratic party of Nicaragua had invited him to espouse their cause, and that he had endeavoured to carry out the principles of the Revolution of 1854; that the Legitimist party had resisted all efforts at conciliation, and there was no resource but war. General Walker, with 500 men, had crossed the lake to Virgin Bay. The Government of Costa Rica has issued an address calling on the people of Central America to destroy the North American invaders. The *New York Daily Times* considers Walker's position to be one of much peril, from which, however, he will probably recover himself. The *Panama Star* gives the following statement of the position of affairs in Nicaragua:—

Costa Rica has declared war against the Filibusterers, and is joined by the other Central American States. Costa Rica requires 9000 men and 100,000 dollars from the Republic. Walker has also declared war against Costa Rica, and marched to Guanacasta, a frontier station of Costa Rica, to meet Colonel Besquet, of the Costa Rica army, who has quite a respectable force. Walker intends to seize the steamer at San Juan del Sur, to transport troops and munitions of war to Punta Arenas. He has not over 1500 men in all, of whom a large percentage is unfit for duty, owing to sickness. This route to California is not safe. The Costa Rica Government has notified the Transit Company of the existence of war, and their intention to intercept navigation between the river and lake. The Walker party at Zarepique, thirty-five miles up the San Juan, seized the last English mail en route for San José.

The Presidential election, to all appearance, will hinge upon the Kansas question. Mr. Fillmore's nomination seems to meet with general repudiation in all the free states. His strength is narrowed down to the slave states, and in none of those can he stand against the Kansas Democrats. The South generally goes with the Democratic party, and is sure to do so now, since that party has committed itself irrevocably to the cause of slavery propagandism. For the first time in the history of the confederation, the lines are drawn definitively between slave and free states. It is known that the Know-Nothings, who repudiate Mr. Fillmore, are to meet in a convention in New York June 12th, and it is generally believed and understood that they will put up Colonel Charles James Fremont, of California, for the Presidency; and that his nomination will be confirmed four days later by the free state convention in Philadelphia.

The following extract from the *Virginia Sentinel* of March 27, headed "Treason Stalks Abroad," will show that the South has at last begun to speak out the real sentiments of a vast proportion of its people:—"A public meeting called in Loudoun, to ratify the nomination of Mr. Fillmore as the favourite pro-slavery candidate of the South, turned out to be quite a different thing from what was intended. It ended in a bold

and unmistakable demonstration in favour of the establishment of freedom in Kansas, and 'the limitation of the domain of African slavery—not to say its gradual extinction on this continent.' The Virginia papers are appalled at the exhibition.

The Court of Appeals—the supreme judicial authority in the state of New York—has decided that the Prohibitory Liquor Law is unconstitutional, and of necessity the law is at once blotted from the statute-book. The ground of this decision is just what the most sagacious friends of temperance clearly foresaw—viz., that the seizure and forfeiture clauses were in conflict with that clause of the constitution which declares that "no citizen shall be deprived of his property except by due process of law." It is thought that this decision settles the question virtually for the whole country. It has, at all events, dealt a heavy blow on fanaticism, and hereafter fanatical men will be apt to proceed with more caution in their favourite reforms.

The steam-ship *Illinois* had arrived from Aspinwall, with the semi-monthly Californian mails and about one million and a quarter in treasure. The Indians were continuing their depredations in the northern section of the state. On Rogue river about 300 of them had made an attack upon the settlers and some United States' soldiers, who defended themselves as best they could; but after fighting nearly a whole day they were overpowered, and an indiscriminate slaughter of men, women, and children took place. Rumours of a new filibustering expedition, to be directed against the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, were afloat in San Francisco. During the fortnight an active business has been done in staple articles, but money continues tight, which caused some considerable running about among the merchants on steamer day.

Dates from Mexico to the 18th ult. state that the insurgents at Puebla were confined to the cathedral of San Augustin, and were suffering from want of provisions. An outbreak had taken place in Guadalajara, in which some two hundred persons were engaged, but it was supposed it would be promptly suppressed. Late letters from Lower California announce the discovery of new and very rich gold and silver mines, some of the products of which had already reached La Paz.

An Acapulco correspondent, under date of March 12, states that General Comonfort had 11,500 men and eighty pieces of artillery with him when he left for Puebla. The forces of Ramirez do not amount to more than 3000 men. Uruga and his officers were to be sent to Acapulco for safe-keeping. General Alvarez is living quietly at his rancho, a short distance from that place.

THE OVERLAND MAIL.

Letters and papers in anticipation of the Overland Mail have been received. The dates are:—Calcutta, March 10; Bombay, March 19. Lord Canning reached Calcutta on the 29th of February, and was immediately sworn in Governor-General. The Santhal insurrection has closed; 14,000 Santhals have sought and found work on the railway passing by their hills. Peace and prosperity universally prevail. Everything continues quiet in the kingdom of Oude. The troops have tendered their services to us as a man. A portion of them for a short time hesitated, under the apprehension that they might be compelled to shave: on being assured that the bushiest of beards were no objection, they enrolled themselves at once. The villagers seem to experience equal astonishment and delight at receiving prompt and punctual payment for everything required from them for the public service, and at being permitted to give or to withhold whatever they please. Nothing has been heard within the last month in reference to the proceedings at Herat, or threatened hostilities with Persia.

OBITUARY OF EMINENT PERSONS.

EARL COWPER.

GEORGE AUGUSTUS FREDERICK COWPER, sixth Earl Cowper, Viscount Fordwich, Baron Cowper, of Wingfield, Kent, and Lord Lieutenant of that county, a Baronet, and a Count of the Holy Roman Empire, died suddenly at Maidstone on the 15th inst. The Earl was the eldest son of Peter Leopold Louis Francis, the fifth Peer, by his wife Amelia, daughter of Peniston, first Viscount Melbourne, which lady married, secondly, in 1839, the present Viscount Palmerston. The Earl was born the 26th June, 1806, and succeeded, as sixth Peer, at the death of his father, the 21st June, 1837. He formerly was in the Horse Guards, and represented Canterbury in the House of Commons prior to inheriting the peerage. He was in 1834, for a very short time, an Under Secretary of State. He was in politics a Whig. He married, the 7th October, 1833, Anne Florence, eldest daughter and coheiress of Thomas Philip, present Earl De Grey, by whom he leaves issue two sons and three daughters. He is succeeded by his elder son, Francis Thomas De Grey, now the seventh Earl, who was born the 11th of June, 1834. The Cowpers are an old Kentish family. The first Earl was Lord Chancellor. His only brother, Spencer, who was tried and acquitted of murder, afterwards became a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, and was grandfather of Cowper the poet.

THE RIGHT HON. GEORGE LIONEL DAWSON DAMER, OF CAME HOUSE, DORSETSHIRE.

THIS gentleman, whose patronymic was Dawson only, and who assumed the surname of Damer at the death of his aunt, Lady Caroline Damer, was the third son of John Dawson, first Earl of Portarlington, by his wife, Caroline, daughter of John, third Earl of Bute. He was born the 28th October, 1788, and early in life entered the British Army, where he attained the rank of Colonel, and served at Waterloo. He was made a C.B. in 1816. He sat in Parliament, from 1835 to 1847, for the borough of Portarlington, and, from 1847 to 1852, for the borough of Dorchester. He staunchly supported the political measures of the late Sir Robert Peel. He filled the office of Comptroller of the Queen's Household from 1841 to 1846, and was made a Privy Councillor in 1841. The right hon. gentleman married, the 20th of August, 1825, Mary Georgiana Emma, second daughter of Lord Hugh Seymour, by whom (who died the 30th of October, 1843) he has had issue one son and four daughters, two of whom are married, viz., the Viscountess Ebrington and Mrs. Francis Sutton. Mr. Dawson Damer died on the 14th inst. at 23, Wilton-crescent. His only son and successor, Lionel Seymour William, an officer in the Scots Fusilier Guards, is married to Harriet Lydia, second daughter of Major-General Lord Rokeby.

WILLS AND CHARITABLE BEQUESTS.—The will of Sir Henry J. J. Hunloke, Bart., of Wingerworth-hall, was sworn under £10,000 personality; Sir James Eglinton Anderson, M.D., of Harley-street, £16,000; Sebastian Gonzalez Martinez, Esq., of Regent's-park, formerly wine-merchant, £200,000; Charles Hampden Turner, Esq., of Rooks'-nest, Surrey, £170,000; John Harvey, Esq., formerly of the Inner Temple, £80,000; Throver B. Herring, of Aldersgate-street and Finchley, £70,000; Brunton Gibbins, of Smethwick, Stafford, glass-manufacturer, £25,000; Richard Shuter, formerly of St. Martin's-court, trimming-manufacturer, £25,000; the Rev. Henry Du Cane, of the Grove, Witham, Essex, £110,000; the Rev. Solomon J. Stowe, M.A., late of Bermuda, £6000, within the province of Canterbury; Mrs. Rebecca Standers, of Brighton, £14,000, and has bequeathed to the Sussex County Hospital, £200. Miss Mary Anne Bayley Smith has left to the schools and visiting societies in the Harrow-road in connection with the Lock Hospital £100; Sailors' Home, £100; City Mission, £100; Church Pastoral Aid Society, £100; and to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, £100.

FIRST ENGLISH BALL IN THE CRIMEA.—Last night (March 31), commencing at eight, and terminating at two, a capital dance was given on board H.M.S. *Bruiser*, lying in Balaklava Harbour, to commemorate the wedding-day of the Captain and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Comyn. It likewise so happens that Mr. Comyn was married on his birthday. During the last week great difference of opinion had been flying about as to whether an "evening party" could have been got up on account of the scarcity of ladies, and the distances on horseback that these few would have to come, in addition to which the weather was by no means warm, and during the day snow fell. The *Bruiser* is a companion screw-steamer to the *Abundance*, both lying at the head of the harbour; and both being Commissariat vessels—the former crushing the wheat and the latter baking the bread. Between them they can turn out 15,000lb. of bread daily, or 6000 3-lb. loaves. Amongst the company present at this dance, which mustered about eighty, I noticed Lady Frederick Fitzroy, Mrs. White, Mr., Mrs., and Miss Drake, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce, Major De Moleyns, Captain Martin, Mr. and Mrs. Marzelli, Captain and Mrs. Handyside, &c., &c. The 82nd band was in attendance. At twelve o'clock the company sat down to a first-rate supper on the upper deck, which was beautifully arranged for the purpose. After the health of the Queen had been given, with all the honours, that of the Emperor, Empress, and Imperial heir followed, and was duly responded to by Colonel Louis, 97th Regiment. The Commissary-General in Chief, Mr. Drake, C.B., proposed Mr. and Mrs. Comyn's health in a most happy speech.—From a Private Correspondent.

FRENCH CUP.—It is currently reported that a gold cup, value £50, with another £50 given by Marshal Pelissier, is to be contested for by the English army shortly, over a steepchase course. The cup, some say, is to be formed out of a Russian shell, mounted in silver.—From a Private Correspondent.

HOUSE OF LORDS, 8TH APRIL.—COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES.—The House sat this day to consider the claim of Lord Fermoy. Sir F. Thesiger, Sir Fitzroy Kelly, Mr. Peter Burke, and other learned counsel, appeared for his Lordship. Mr. Napier, Q.C., pursuant to an order of the House, was heard against the claim. The Judges were summoned. Among the Lords present were the Duke of Argyll, the Earl of Derby, Lord Lyndhurst, Lord Campbell, and Lord St. Leonards. The question, after argument, resolved itself into a point of law, which was referred to the Judges, who took time to consider.

STATISTICAL ABSTRACT FOR THE YEAR 1855.

There is no official document more interesting and instructive than the Statistical Abstract of the United Kingdom. It is an annual register of trade and commerce; a microcosm of mercantile and social life. The Abstract is now in the third year of its existence, ranging from 1841 to 1855, both included, and is improved by the addition of two tables showing the real value of the imports, and of the foreign commodities exported. It is a living panorama of industry. Under separate heads it shows the past and present state of revenue and expenditure, and the condition of our National Debt; the amount of our imports, exports, and transshipments, specifying the nature and extent of our transactions with every country on the globe; the progress made in building and registering our sailing and steam vessels; the employment of our shipping both in the home and foreign trade; the prices and sales of corn in all the towns where the averages are computed; the amount of gold, silver, and copper moneys coined at the Royal Mint; the condition of the savings-banks and of the Bank of England; the state of pauperism and of emigration. Such are the contents of this most useful publication—valuable to living statesmen, invaluable to future historians, as an authentic work of reference. Compiled from year to year, it offers to the student of finance sure data and terms of comparison, by which he may arrive at a sound judgment on the progress and decline of the home and foreign trade.

We learn from this document that, in 1841, the revenue paid into the Exchequer amounted to 48,084,359*l.*, while the expenditure reached 50,185,729*l.*, the deficiency being 2,101,370*l.* In the two last years of war, 1854 and 1855, the revenue, expenditure, and deficiency have been much greater. In 1854 the revenue amounted to 56,822,509*l.*, and the expenditure to 60,031,568*l.*, while the deficiency reached to 3,209,059*l.* In 1855 the revenue was increased to 63,364,605*l.*, and the expenditure to 84,505,788*l.*, while the deficiency swelled to the large sum of 21,141,183*l.* In both years the deficiency was provided for by loans and Exchequer Bills and Bonds.

The fluctuations in many of the prime sources of revenue from the extreme points compared—that is from 1841 to 1855, both included—are worthy of notice. In 1841 the Customs yielded 21,898,845*l.*, but in 1855 declined to 20,987,752*l.* In the same periods the Excise increased from 13,678,896*l.* to 16,389,486*l.* The variation in the Stamps was trifling, but shows a decline. In the Post-office the increase has been enormous. In 1841 that department only yielded 455,000*l.*; but, in 1855, 1,137,220*l.* As would be expected, the great source of revenue has been the Property-tax. It did not exist in 1841. In 1842 it only gave 571,055*l.*, but had not then come into full play for a whole year. In 1843 it yielded 5,249,261*l.*, but in 1855 it poured into the Treasury 13,718,185*l.*, a trifle more than the Excise in 1841. As the Property-tax, in some form or other, is likely to be permanent, it may be well to exhibit its sustaining power. In 1841, when not levied, the revenue amounted to 48,084,359*l.*; in 1855 it amounted to 63,364,605*l.*; difference in excess, 15,274,246*l.*, to which the Property-tax contributes 13,718,185*l.*; so that, independently of it, all the other sources of revenue together only return an increase to the Exchequer of 1,561,061*l.*, comparing the years 1841 and 1855—an incontrovertible proof that the working-classes, compared with the propertied classes, have relatively made but a trifling advance in their command over the good things of this life.

It is disheartening to perceive that our National Debt, so far from having undergone any diminution in the periods compared, has slightly increased. In 1841 the figures give us 790,874,608*l.*; in 1855, 793,375,199*l.*

The real value of imports (as distinguished from the old and deceptive scale of official values established in 1694, and which was nothing more than a measure of quantity) was not ascertained before 1854, in which year they amounted to 152,501,513*l.*; and in 1855 to 143,850,505*l.*—a decline of 8,741,008*l.*, which may be regarded as temporary—the result of the war.

The quantities of raw cotton imported into the United Kingdom from various countries from 1841 to 1853 show a steady advance in our manufacturing system. In 1841 it amounted to 487,992,355*lb.*; in 1855, to 891,752,002*lb.* In wool (sheep, lamb, and alpaca) the increase has been in the same periods from 56,170,974*lb.* to 99,300,446*lb.* The total declared values of British and Irish produce exported from the United Kingdom figured in 1841 at 51,545,116*l.*; and in 1854, to 97,184,726*l.* Of this aggregate of exports foreign countries took 63,332,528*l.*; and British possessions, 33,852,198*l.* In British possessions, Australia proved our best market, taking goods to the value of 11,931,352*l.*; whilst the East Indies took 10,025,969*l.* On this point two comments may be made: that any delay in steam postal communication to such a customer as Australia is most unwise; and that, as the sparse population of Australia buys more from us than the teeming population of the East Indies, the fair inference is that the resources of the latter country are most negligently developed. The exports of 1855 are slightly less than those of 1854, yielding only 95,669,380*l.* The difference may be fairly put to the account of war; and it is a matter of congratulation that the decline is so insignificant.

Table 21 gives a return of the total tonnage of British and foreign vessels respectively, entered and cleared with cargoes and in ballast at ports in the United Kingdom; and shows the vast expansion of maritime commerce. In 1841 the total amounted to 9,418,547 tons; in 1855 it had doubled, being 11,489,470 tons.

The return of sailing-vessels and steamers built and registered is interesting. Of the former we built fewer in 1855 than in 1841; but the tonnage was much larger. Thus, in 1841, we constructed 1063 ships, measuring 148,215 tons; in 1855, 865 ships, measuring 242,182 tons. In 1841 we built forty-eight steamers, measuring 11,363 tons; in 1855 233 steamers, measuring 81,018 tons. In 1855 we had afloat, employed in the home and foreign trade, 17,828 ships—sailing-vessels and steamers included, but river steamers excluded—measuring 3,990,170 tons, manned by 168,537 sailors, exclusive of masters. It may be well here to observe that, in reference to our mercantile marine, the home trade signifies on the coasts of the United Kingdom, or to ports between the limits of the river Elbe and Brest, while the foreign trade includes all ports beyond those limits.

The *Gazette* prices of wheat in 1854 and 1855 were, respectively, 72*s.* 5*d.* and 74*s.* 8*d.* In 1855 the quantity of British wheat sold in the principal market-towns in England and Wales was 5,256,874 quarters; of barley, 2,608,892 quarters; of oats, 816,688. There is no corresponding return for Scotland or Ireland.

The gold coined at the Mint for the last four years may be thus tabulated:—

1852	...	...	...	...	£3,742,270
1853	...	...	...	...	11,952,391
1854	...	...	...	...	4,152,183
1855	...	...	...	...	9,008,663

The population of England and Wales, estimated for the middle of the year, and including army and navy, and merchant seamen at home, was estimated in 1841 at 15,929,000; and in 1855 at 18,786,000. The Registration Act for Scotland only came into operation on the 1st January, 1855, and the population in that year is put down at 3,004,290.

The year 1849 is the first year for which the actual number of paupers receiving relief on a given day can be returned in the several unions and parishes under Boards of Guardians in England and Wales. According to the last Census, that of 1851, the population of those unions and parishes was 16,250,861. In 1849 the total number of indoor and out-door paupers was 934,419; and in 1855, 877,767. This is exclusive of vagrants.

In Ireland the diminution is remarkable. The account is made up to the first week in January of each year. In 1849 the numbers were 620,747; in 1855 they only amounted to 86,819; and on the 1st of January of the present year the list fell to 73,088.

In Scotland the pauper returns are made up to 14th May in each year. In 1849 the numbers were 82,357; in 1855, 79,887.

Emigration was greatest in 1852, including 368,764 persons; in 1855 it fell to 176,807 persons.

COUNTRY NEWS.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS AT THE HIGHFIELD HOUSE OBSERVATORY, NEAR NOTTINGHAM, FOR THE WEEK ENDING APRIL 15, 1856.

Month and Day.	Corrected Reading of Barometer at 9 A.M. 181 feet above sea level.	Thermometer.		Rain in Inches.	Mean Temperature of Day.	Mean Temperature of Wet Bulb.	Evaporation.	Amount of Rain.		Mean amount of Cloud (0-10).
		Highest Reading.	Lowest Reading.					In the Night.	In the Day.	
April 9	29.101	55.0	40.3	46.6	0.004	44.2	43.9	0	6	3.7
" 10	29.029	54.3	36.9	46.3	0.172	46.2	45.2	2	5	6.1
" 11	29.448	48.8	41.5	51.0	0.052	50.0	47.7	6	4	5.4
" 12	29.242	60.5	46.7	51.0	0.338	48.0	49.1	10	8	3.6
" 13	29.483	62.8	44.5	53.3	0.000	50.5	49.4	9	6	5.6
" 14	29.740	53.2	42.0	45.3	0.030	45.5	44.3	8	7	10.0
" 15	29.936	54.8	37.6	44.5	0.000	40.9	41.1	10	7	3.0
Mean	29.726	57.1	41.3	49.3	0.566	46.2	45.8	7.3	6.1	5.3

The range of temperature during the week was 25.9°. The weather.—On the 9th, fine; 10th, rainy; 11th, fine—from 4 p.m. rainy; 12th, fine from 9 a.m., and for the remainder of the week. The direction of the wind was—on 9th W.S.W., became S.W. at 2 p.m., S.S.W. at 9 p.m.; on 10th, W.S.W., at noon, W.S.W., at 4 p.m., W. at 6 p.m., in which quarter it remained until 9 p.m. on 10th, when it changed through the N. to E., passing at 4 p.m. back through N. to S.W., becoming W. at 5 p.m.; W.S.W. at 3 p.m. on 11th, S.W. at 7 p.m., S.S.W. at 9 p.m., S. at 1 p.m., S.S.E. at 10 p.m.; S. at 2 p.m. on 12th; S.S.W. at 4 p.m., S.W. at 6 p.m., W.S.W. at 8 p.m., S.W. at 12 p.m.; S.S.W. at 2 p.m., W.S.W. at 4 p.m., S.W. at 7 p.m.; S.S.W. at 9 p.m. on 13th, S.W. at 6 p.m., S.S.W. at 10 p.m., S.W. at 2 p.m., W. at 4 p.m., W.N.W. at 8 p.m., N.W. at 12 p.m., N.N.W. at 2 p.m., N. at 4 p.m., N.N.E. at 12 p.m., N. at 12 p.m., N. at 14 p.m., N.N.E. at 2 p.m., N.E. at 3 p.m., N.N.E. at 6 p.m., N.E. by N. at 6 p.m.; N.E. at 9 a.m. on 15th, N.E. by E. at 10 a.m., and N.E. by N. at 6 p.m. A gale was blowing from 3 p.m. on 14th; the greatest pressure being 30.1 on square foot at 12 p.m. on 15th, the maintaining minimum pressure never being less than 29.1 lb. from 2 p.m. till 4 p.m. on 15th. 12th, Blackbirds nest with young ones. 14th, Jargonelle pear came into bloom. E. J. LOWE.

RESTORATION OF BRAINTREE CHURCH.—At length there appears to be some prospect, owing to the untiring exertions of the Rev. J. D. Browne, the Vicar, that this fine old edifice which has been rapidly going to ruin, will be restored and considerably enlarged, to meet the wants of a rapidly-increasing congregation. The present structure of the parish church of Baintree was erected in the reign of Edward III., and is a remarkably fine specimen of the ecclesiastical architecture of that remote period. To save this noble fabric from total destruction, and render it once more a fitting temple for the service of the Almighty, large funds are requisite. It is impossible to raise in the parish anything like the sum required, and no alternative is left but to appeal to the Christian sympathy and liberality of all who feel an interest in the spread of pure and evangelical doctrines, and the celebration of God's holy service and ordinances. There is, we understand, a deficiency of nearly two thousand pounds, and the work cannot be carried on unless the public at large will respond to the earnest and pressing appeal of the Vicar and churchwardens, and rescue the fine old edifice from total ruin. Our readers are aware that Baintree was the scene of the memorable contests for church-rates, and here the battle was fought, and for nearly twenty years the Baintree case has been before the public, and the litigation that has ensued in consequence will not soon be forgotten. The Rev. J. D. Browne, who has been Vicar only about four years, has been anxious to conciliate all parties, and is desirous of seeing the church restored by voluntary contributions, and he makes his present appeal with much confidence to the public, to aid him in a great, good, and glorious work.

MEETING OF WOMEN AT LEICESTER.—A meeting of women was held in the Townhall, Leicester, on Monday night, to consider the laws relative to the protection of women. The handbills convening it stated that no men would be admitted, "excepting, of course, gentlemen of the press." At seven o'clock about 200 had assembled. The majority were females of middle age, of the operative class, but in general respectably attired. A Mrs. Woodford was voted to the chair, and the principal speaker was a Mrs. Wigfield, who made some really clever speeches. The injustice of the present laws, by which a woman is deprived of all control over her own earnings and offspring, was vehemently denounced, and it was unanimously resolved to support the motion of Sir Erskine Perry for a revision of the marriage laws. A petition to the House of Commons, praying that it might be adopted, was unanimously agreed to, and the proceedings, which were conducted with great order and propriety, terminated soon after nine o'clock, by the singing of the National Anthem. It was agreed, with one dissentient, not to support Mr. Dillwyn's measure for introducing flogging as a punishment for wife-beaters.

THE SHEPHERD BOY'S WAY IN THE WORLD.—The following advertisement appears in the *Times* of Saturday:—"The President and Committee of the Kirkby Lonsdale Mechanic's and Literary Institution have safely received the truly valuable gift of books, coins, shells, &c., to the above institution, by 'One who was an illiterate Shepherd's Boy, who drove coal-carts through the town of Kirkby Lonsdale now more than sixty years ago,' and beg he will accept their most grateful thanks."

A HERD OF RABBIT DEER.—Rabies, or hydrophobia, we regret to say, has shown itself to such a serious extent in Stainborough Park, near Barnsley, as to excite the alarm of the inhabitants of that locality, and to attract the attention of medical men. The disease first began to show itself on a small scale in the latter part of the last or early in the present year, immediately after a mad dog is said to have been roaming about the locality, and which is supposed to have communicated the contagion. Nearly 100 deer have already fallen victims to its effects. While in a state of disease these otherwise innocent and playful animals foam at the mouth, worry each other like dogs, and tear off each other's hair and flesh; and, when placed in a state of confinement, bite at whatever comes within their reach.

MURDER OF MRS. KELLY.—The jury having returned a verdict of "Wilful Murder" against two persons unknown, it was not thought expedient to examine many witnesses. The police have found in some of the houses on the lands of Mrs. Kelly articles supposed to have been worn by the murderers for disguise: they consider that they have the means of further discoveries. The magistrates are now receiving information in private. There are five persons in custody—Mr. Strivens and four tenants. The Lord Lieutenant of Ireland has caused a reward of £100 to be offered for such information as may, within six months, lead to the arrest of the assassins.

CONVICTION OF TWO OF THE MURDERERS OF MISS HINDS.—James Murphy and Thomas Dunn, implicated in the most atrocious murder of Miss Hinds, were last week found guilty. The evidence was clear, and brought the fact home to the miscreants beyond all shadow of doubt. One of the worst features in the case is the fact that the circumstance of the murder was known to all the peasantry in the neighbourhood, and not a hand was raised to protect a kind-hearted woman. The Lord Chief Justice, in his charge, thus describes what occurred:—"It appears, according to the allegation, and of that there can be no doubt, that upon the estate of this lady, Miss Charlotte Hinds, whose murder forms the principal subject matter of inquiry, a wide conspiracy was formed amongst the tenants of her property, the result of which was, that she was murdered almost in the noonday, in the presence of two or more persons; and that the persons, whoever they were, who perpetrated that offence were so secure, as they thought, that no concealment of any kind was used; that they attacked her in the open day, that they walked away after the commission of the offence, and that persons were waiting to convey them across the river."

HUMBOLDT'S FELLOW TRAVELLER.—Great interest was created at the last sitting of the Geographical Society of Paris by the reading of a letter from M. de Bonpland to one of the members. The Nestor of French travellers and naturalists announces in it his intention to return to Paris and to his old lodgings in the Rue du Mont Thabor—only, however, in order to deliver to the Museum his collections and manuscripts, and then to return for ever to his plantations in Uruguay. M. de Bonpland is now 83 years of age.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE week has not been productive of many topics of interest—public, social, or domestic. We all seem to be in an expectant attitude. There are several matters approaching of various importance, and each entitled in its turn to occupy the world's attention; but in the mean time we are sadly dull. There is the treaty, with all its ramifications; there is the grand naval review, arranged in order that, now the war is over, our sailors may see something like fighting; there is the rejoicing, which might have been less palpable, but that it is to be adroitly mixed up with the birthday of our beloved Sovereign, and if we cannot cry "Victory" we can heartily cry "Victoria;" there is the expected presence of a young Prince upon an interesting errand, and thousands are securing, in a spirit of honest affection and not of servility, the new and pleasant portraiture of the young lady chiefly concerned in his visit; there is the old Opera to reopen with the Cardinal's niece; there is the Academy Exhibition, "expected to be rather good," as the exhibition always is until the first Monday in May, and then it is always about the worst one recollects; and, finally, there is the Rugeley case, which can come on now that an Act of Parliament has been obtained to hand it over to its natural tribunal. So that, as has been said, there is plenty before us, and in the mean time we must be content with such "small deer" as can be secured.

The illumination question is one of private discussion, and imaginative glass-blowers are announcing that they have millions of coloured lampson hand. As there are to be national fireworks, on a scale that has not been attempted since the days of the Temple of Concord, of which our fathers still speak, the domestic illuminations will be eclipsed in the public eye, and might as well be dispensed with. But inasmuch as the more respectable parts of London are always left by the police authorities at the mercy of the rabble whenever there is a chance of a disturbance, the safety of windows will probably be increased by some kind of lighting up. People who are not enthusiastic about the peace will also be glad to do honour to their Queen's birthday, and on the whole there will doubtless be a good show. It seems that there are to be two displays of fireworks, and we certainly think that the West-end is not entitled to both, and that Victoria-park, or some such site, ought to be the scene of one of the fiery fêtes. We cannot too early caution all people to prepare precautionary measures for the protection of their property upon the occasions in question; they may be quite sure that the dangerous classes, and the kind of gentlemen who met the other evening at St. Martin's-hall, are considering the celebration "in another interest;" and nobody need expect that servants will be Spartan sentinels on those nights. We shall hear of plenty of robberies, let what care be taken that may.

Mr. Spooner's victory over Maynooth should content him, and, as a practical man, he should push it no further. The abolition of the payment to the College would be a mistake of the worst character; and, though legislative Protestantism may not have scrupled to record its dislike of Popery, it will not go the length of committing a blunder in statesmanship. The Irish priests have, however, done much to increase the majorities against Maynooth; and the reaction in Ireland itself, where the respectable Catholics have thrown, in succession, three boroughs into the hands of the Conservatives rather than return the priests' tools, speaks for itself. The truth is that, if Government is to deal with the education of a priesthood at all, it ought to do so on a broad principle and a large scale, and so manage that, in Ireland for instance, the priests shall not be like those of Jeroboam, the son of Nebat, "of the lowest of the people." It is playing with the subject to act as we have hitherto done.

It was supposed that Lord Wensleydale had been advised to claim his seat in the House of Lords, and that he would do so when the House met after Easter; but this determination, if made, was set aside. It is now rumoured that the difficulty is to be in some measure evaded by the creation of several law peers for life, who are to form a kind of court of assistance to the Lords, and that this is not to be opposed by the constitutional authorities in the hereditary chamber. In the mean time Lord John Russell is recommended, by some advisers, to take his seat in the upper chamber, on the ground that all the service that can be expected from him has been rendered; and a Spanish journalist makes a still pleasanter provision for the English Premier, announcing that he has bought a lovely estate on the banks of the Guadalquivir, by whose waters the "affluent Lord" intends to wile away, in repose, the last years of a stormy life. The chateau thus devoted to Lord Palmerston's comfort is, we need hardly say, one of the castles which the proverb specially allots to the country so chosen for him.

Several fires of magnitude have marked the week; but that which attracted most observation was the burning of the railway station at Vauxhall, about the hour when the great body of excursionists to Hampton Court and elsewhere were returning from their holiday. Some of the trains actually arrived at the scene of conflagration; but, luckily, no accident occurred, and the remainder were signalled not to pass the preceding station, the worst casualty being the addition of a considerable journey to the weary walk of the humbler East-enders. The cause of the conflagration is said to be an escape of gas. The station was very inconvenient and unsightly; and there is no particular reason to regret that a better-looking edifice must now be reared in its stead. The energy with which the Company's officials went to work to remove the ruins, and to restore the "metals," which had been fused, so as to prevent inconvenience to the public, deserves special mention.

COMPLETION OF THE SOUTH WALES RAILWAY, AND EXTENSION OF THE LINE TO MILFORD HAVEN.—The trunk line of the South Wales Railway from Haverfordwest, through Johnston, to Neyland, was formally opened for traffic on Tuesday morning. Neyland is situated on the north-eastern shore of Milford Haven, immediately opposite the large royal building arsenal at Pembroke, four miles from the little town of Milford, and about eight from Haverfordwest. It is the terminus of the South Wales Railway, which, joining the Great Western line at Gloucester, now forms a direct railway communication between the metropolis and our western shores. No public demonstration was made upon the occasion, the station at present erected at Neyland being merely temporary, and unadapted for any purposes of festivity or display. Milford Haven undoubtedly possesses immense natural advantages, and it remains only for art to construct proper wharfs and docks to secure for it the position of one of the most important export ports in the kingdom. It is easy of access for the largest vessel in any state of the tide; it is almost landlocked, and has secure anchorage for the fleet of an empire. It will prove extremely economical and convenient for the coaling of ocean steamers, and will no doubt export large quantities of the Pembroke-shire anthracite coal, now held in high estimation. Vessels have already shipped to Australia iron which had been brought hither by the railway from the Welsh mining districts; and it is anticipated from its being twenty-four hours nearer America than Liverpool, free from heavy dues, and now in direct communication with the great mercantile districts, that this magnificent but long-neglected haven will speedily attain the commercial importance which its natural advantages seem to demand for it.

STATE DINNER TO THE PLENIPOTENTIARIES.—On Saturday evening the Emperor gave a banquet to the members of the Congress in the Hall of Marshals at the Tuileries. All the members of the Congress had been invited, together with the Foreign Ministers, the Cardinals, the Ministers of the Emperor, the Marshals, the Presidents of the great bodies, the high officers of the Crown, the Ambassador of France in London, the Governor of the Invalides, the Grand Chancellor of the Legion of Honour, the Grand Referendary of the Senate, the senators, deputies, high functionaries of the State, and the chief civil and military officers of the Emperor's household. The Emperor had on his right his Excellency Lord Clarendon, and on his left his Excellency Count Buel. His Imperial Highness Prince Napoleon sat facing the Emperor. He had on his right his Excellency Count Orloff, and on his left his Highness Ali Pacha. Towards the end of the dinner his Imperial Majesty pronounced with a firm and emphatic voice the following words:—"I propose a toast to the union so happily re-established between the Sovereigns. May it be lasting; and it will be so if it reposes always on right and justice, and on the true and legitimate interests of the peoples." These words were received with unanimous cries of "Long live the Emperor!" After the banquet the Emperor passed into the saloon before the Hall of the Throne, and the assembly remained until ten o'clock. During the banquet the band of the Guides and the choirs of the Conservatory performed alternately some pieces of instrumental and vocal music.—*Moniteur.*

DESTRUCTION OF THE VAUXHALL RAILWAY STATION BY FIRE.

At a quarter-past eight o'clock last Sunday evening the ordinary business of the Vauxhall Railway Station was proceeding, and passengers were in the act of booking themselves for the suburban down trains, when a sudden alarm of fire arose, and the same instant it was discovered that a small ante-room adjoining the booking-office, and occupied by the clerk in charge, was in flames. In a very few moments the fire had extended to the booking-office itself; and so remarkably rapid was its progress that the officials present, so far from being able to stay its ravages, were compelled to make a hasty retreat. The flames were first perceived by Mr. Inspector Parker, one of the officials at the Waterloo road terminus, who, having been sent to see a gentleman at the Vauxhall station, was in the act of ascending the staircase on the down line, when he noticed that the fire was burning on the paper and canvas wall leading to the offices of Messrs. Maudslay. An immediate alarm of fire was raised, and every one went to the assistance of those previously on the platform, but without being able to do the least good, inasmuch as the fire travelled with the rapidity of electricity, seizing upon the whole of the offices, then extending to the ticket depôts, and finally seizing upon the roof of the station; and burning both upwards and downwards, it assumed such a formidable aspect as to convince every one that the entire station was doomed to be wholly destroyed, and it was questionable whether any of the buildings that adjoined the station could escape.

A Twickenham train passed through after the fire broke out, and was followed by a Windsor train, which actually stopped to set down passengers while the station was in flames, the rapidity of the fire having prevented the officials from signalling all trains to stop. Mr. Godson, traffic manager at Nine Elms, was fortunately on the spot when the fire occurred, and under his direction the most active measures were taken for the prevention of accident. Messengers were dispatched to the Waterloo terminus to stop the departure of all down-trains, and the up-trains were turned off into the Nine Elms station.

The moment the plugs of the Lambeth, Vauxhall, and Southwark Companies' mains were drawn, a sufficient supply of water was obtained to set the engines of Price's candleworks, and Messrs. Burnett and Hodges' distillery to work, as well as that of the West of England office, and many of the London Brigade. The station, however, standing upon the top of the line, and being built of wood, and the wind blowing stiffly off the River Thames, the conflagration continued to extend, and at length attacked the houses on the south side of the property. By eleven o'clock sundry portions of the timber roof gave way, and fell with a great crash—portions being hurled into the middle of the permanent way, and other parts falling at the feet of the firemen, whose most strenuous labours made no impression upon the flames. The men, however, stood to their posts; and by the hour of midnight all danger of

any further extension of mischief was over. At that period the whole of the station, booking-offices, warehouses, &c., was reduced to ruins, not even the wooden wall of the company remaining.

The moment the news was received at the Waterloo terminus, Mr. Crombie (the secretary), Mr. Young (the superintendent of the terminus), Mr. Hodson, and several other officials, hastened to the scene to give the necessary instructions as to what was best to be done to prevent accidents; and we are glad to say that by so doing not a single person was injured. The mail-bags were taken by one of Mr. Barwick's vans and deposited at the Nine Elms station, and left the place in suffi-

cient time to be delivered in the country at the usual hour on Monday.

Of course nothing could pass up or down the line between Waterloo and Vauxhall on Sunday night; but, owing to the permanent way not being damaged by the fire to any extent, the line was sufficiently cleared and repaired during the night to allow the trains to run as usual next day.

It would be difficult to give any idea of the inconvenience occasioned at the London terminus on Sunday night. Every cab, omnibus, and other vehicle on the platform and the stands in the open streets was taken away; the public-houses, instead of being overcrowded, were deserted; and business for a time totally suspended.

Our Artist states the best point of view to have been from opposite Colt's pistol manufactory. Looking over the river the fire had a fine effect. Crowds flocked to some high paling at this point, where our Artist took his sketch.

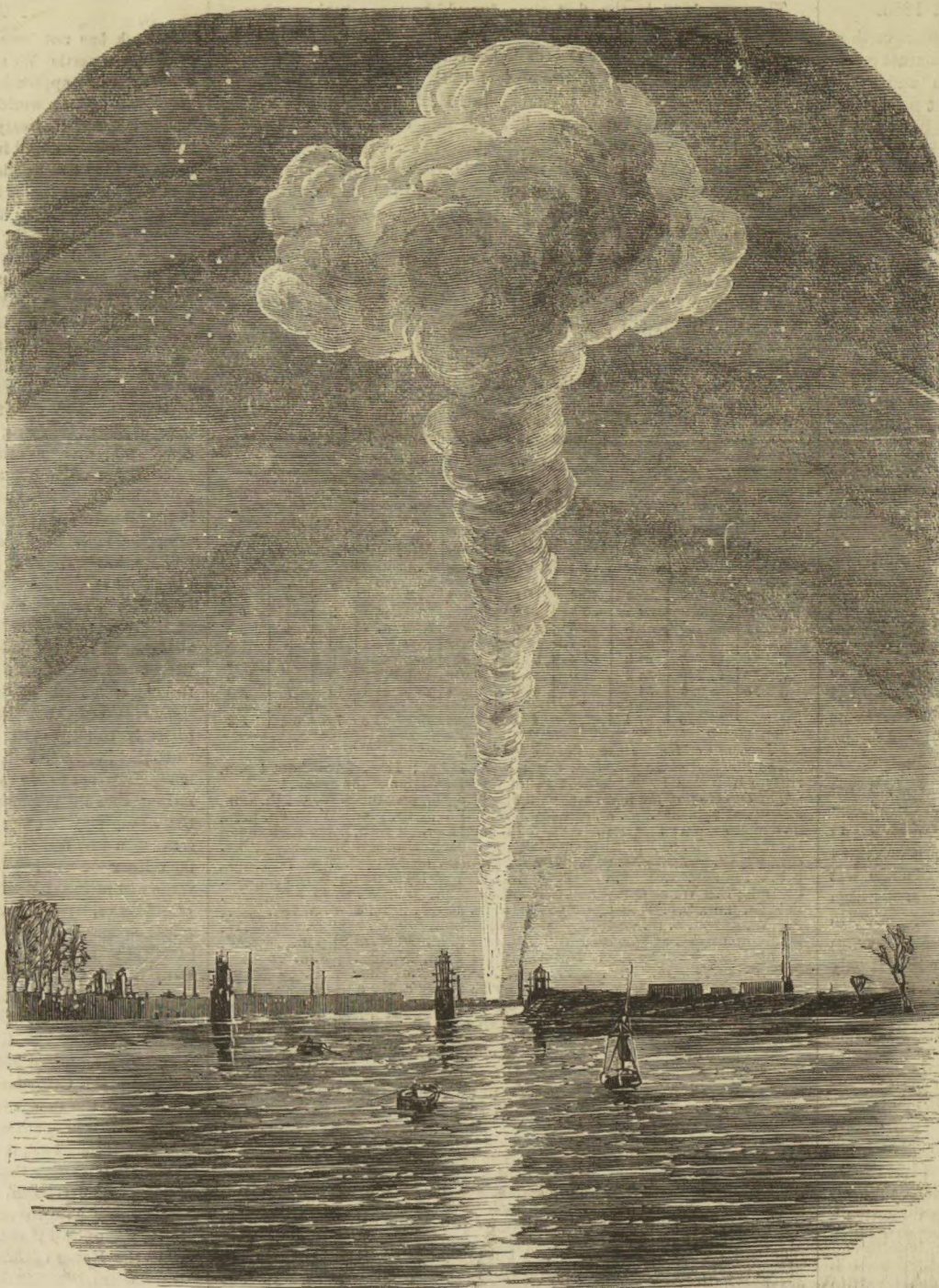
The engine from Price's Patent Candle Company's Factory took up its position under one of the arches on which the Vauxhall-bridge station rests, and played upon the houses at the back, which but for this timely aid must inevitably have come to the ground. As it was, the upper windows were burned out, and other considerable damage done. Beaufoy's engine and the parish engine rendered great service, and it is creditable to all these establishments that their engines were in perfect order, and very quickly got to work.

LAUNCHES AT MESSRS. MARE'S, BLACKWALL.

ON Saturday week five vessels were launched at one tide from the extensive yards of Messrs. Mare and Co., of Blackwall. The vessels were the *Genova*, built for the Genoese Transatlantic Company; the *Havre*, constructed for the South-Western Railway Company; and three mortar-boats, forming a portion of a contract of twenty built for the Government. The three iron mortar-boats were first launched; and almost immediately afterwards the *Havre*, an iron paddle-steamer, built on lines that may be expected to make her the fastest packet in the Channel, and one of the most elegant and beautiful models afloat.

The greatest amount of interest was, however, centred in the launch of the *Genova*. This splendid iron screw-steamer is the third of a fleet built for a company established at Genoa, for the purpose of carrying on a direct steam communication between North and South America and Sardinia. This company has recently been formed under the most favourable auspices. The whole of its capital has been subscribed in Sardinia. Victor Emmanuel, the King of Sardinia, has, from the first, taken a warm interest in the proceedings of the company, and is one of the largest shareholders in it.

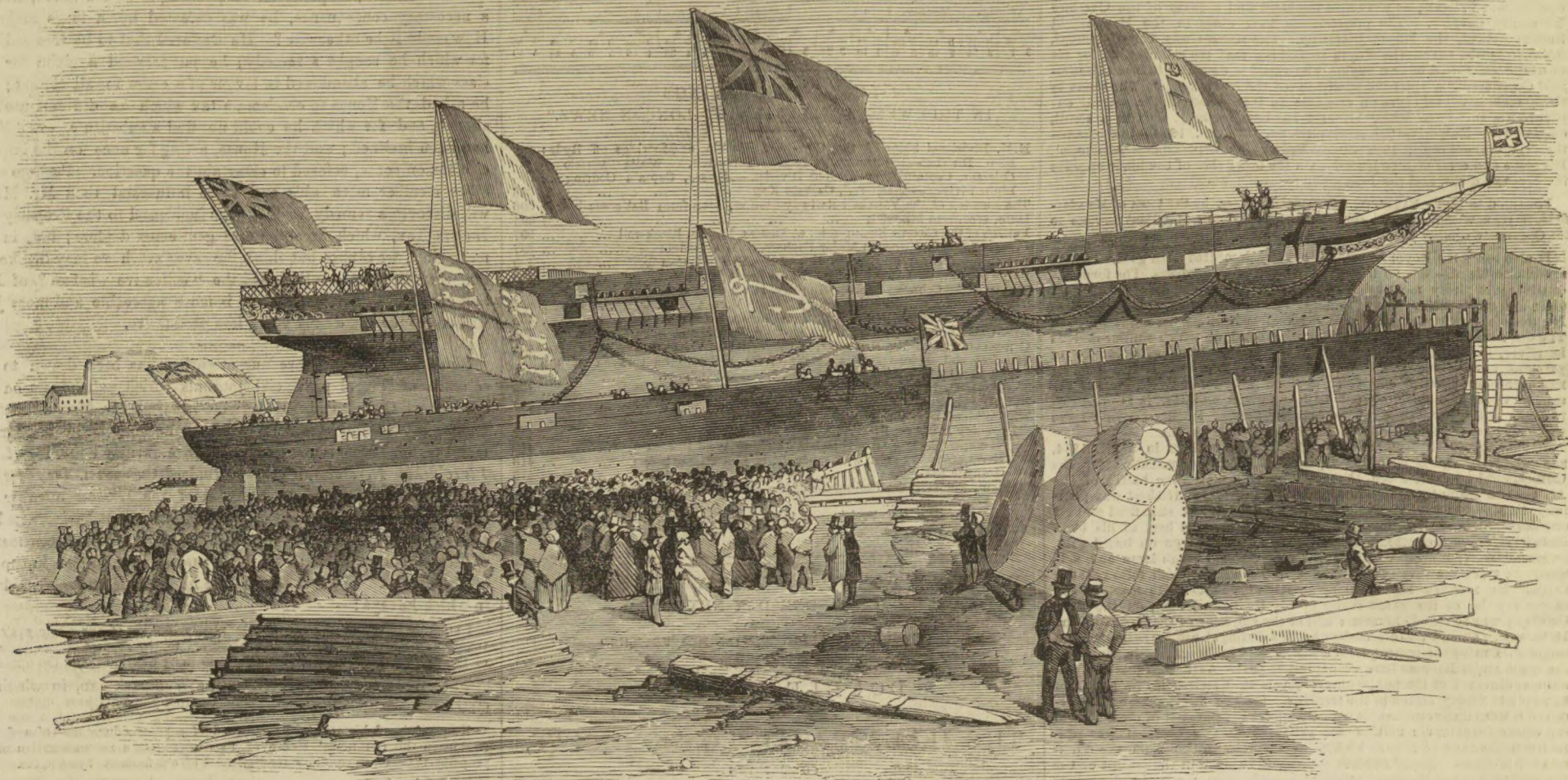
The *Genova* is of 2000 tons burden, and 300-horse power, and is undoubtedly one of the finest models of naval architecture afloat, both with respect to her finish and mould. She has been constructed upon lines laid down by Mr. James Ash, and both her and the *Havre* reflect the greatest



THE BURNING OF THE VAUXHALL RAILWAY STATION, SEEN FROM BATTERSEA-BRIDGE.



THE FIRE AT THE VAUXHALL RAILWAY STATION SEEN FROM MILLBANK.



LAUNCH OF "THE GENOVA" STEAM-SHIP, AT MESSRS. MARE'S, BLACKWALL.

credit on that gentleman. The ceremony of naming and launching the vessels was effected in excellent style—that of the *Genova* by the Misses Ford and Walter, and of the *Havre* by Mrs. Ash and Miss Johnstone.

The dimensions of the *Genova* are—length, 263 feet; breadth of beam, 38 feet; depth of hold, 26 feet 6 inches. The engines, of 300-horse power, are to be supplied by Maudslay; and the cost of the vessel, exclusive of her engines, will be £43,000.

The *Havre*, iron paddle-steamer, for the South-Western Railway, n-tended to run between Southampton and Havre, is 600 tons burden: her length is 185 feet; breadth of beam, 23 ft. 10 in.; depth of hold, 15 ft. 8 in.; engines, 225-horse power, in course of construction by Messrs. Seaward.

There was an immense concourse of persons present to witness the interesting occurrences, which, with the beautiful weather, gave the greatest satisfaction to all.

PRESENTATION OF A SWORD AND AN ADDRESS TO
MAJOR HIBBERT, AT MACCLESFIELD.

On Wednesday week the town of Macclesfield was the scene of some very interesting proceedings, in association with the war, by the presentation to Major Hugh Robert Hibbert, 7th Fusiliers, of a sword and an address agreed to by the Town-council. A great variety of flags was displayed



PRESENTATION OF A SWORD TO MAJOR HIBBERT, AT MACCLESFIELD.

Of late, in consequence of the partial suspension of transportation, the Parliament, the Judges, and the Press have all asked with some alarm what we are to do with our convicts; and the public has been taught to believe that the number is increasing, making new and severe punishments necessary to give security to life and property. Under such circumstances the Home-office, it might be expected, would be careful and quick to supply official information, either, as the case may be, to excite vigilance, or lessen apprehensions. A little more than a month ago, however, the "tables of criminal offenders" committed for trial, or bailed, &c., in England and Wales, and the result of the proceedings for the year 1845, compiled from the criminal registers kept in the Home-office, were presented to both Houses of Parliament; so that the Home-office requires fourteen months to prepare and publish the records transmitted to it by the clerks of the peace for the different counties. These tables describe the nature of the offences and the counties in which they were committed, the sex

the offenders, and the punishments inflicted on them; but are silent as to their ages, and do not distinguish whether they are adult or juvenile. Moreover, these tables are strictly limited to persons committed for trial at assizes and sessions—about one-fourth part only of all who are imprisoned—and take no notice whatever of the other three-fourths, who are sentenced by summary conviction. Both from the greater number, however, and from magistrates acting less under the public eye in police courts and at petty sessions than at assizes, summary convictions are precisely that part of our penal jurisprudence on which we most require correct information. On the average of the twelve years ended 1852 the annual number of summary convictions in England and Wales was 74,347, or 1 to every 231 persons of the whole population. With the persons committed for trial they make an average of upwards of 100,000 persons annually shut up in gaol, which is nothing less than a great national calamity, however brought on, and a frightful national reproach. To keep the public in the dark on such a subject is sure to force it astray. If statesmen are bound to instruct as well as coerce the people, as is now generally admitted, they can commit no greater offence than to withhold the valuable information which they alone can supply.

The Home-office has the summary convictions as well as the committals to the assizes under its direction; and certain Prison Inspectors are bound, by the Act of 5 and 6 Will. IV., cap. 38, to make reports to the Home-office, which in turn is bound to lay them before Parliament. Separate reports, too, of the inspectors of the different gaols have been continually published; but it is not more than three weeks ago that the report by Mr. J. Williams, Inspector of Prisons, on the General Statistics of Crime, 1850, was published. In this report there is much minute information concerning criminals. It includes an account of the age, instruction, sex, &c., &c., of all persons committed for trial at assizes and sessions, of all persons summarily convicted and how disposed of. Without such information the public can form no conception of the enormous mass of misery inflicted on the community by our penal jurisprudence, with a view to improve it. We, at least, were surprised to learn from the report that in one year (1849) there were in our prisons 139,327 persons. Why was this important knowledge withheld from the public till the year 1856? Five long years have Mr. Williams and the Home-office delayed it. That it might have been published much earlier is proved by the accounts of 1850 having been almost immediately afterwards followed by the accounts for 1851 and 1852; which required, one only four years, and the other only three years, to prepare them; and to have delayed till 1856 the publication of the official tables of the general statistics of criminals for the year 1850 appears to us wholly inexcusable. Why Mr. Liddell, who gave notice of his intention to ask the Home Secretary on Tuesday the cause of this most unseemly, if not unwarrantable, delay, did not put the question, we are not informed; but we presume that, either by him or some other hon. member, an explanation will be wrung from the Home-office.

Whatever excuse may be made for the subordinates, none can be made for the several Home Secretaries who have permitted this work so long to be delayed. When chiefs are skilful and diligent their subordinates are rarely negligent. It is not perhaps the duty of Mr. Williams to study the criminal registers of the Home-office, or the returns of the Registrar-General, who is another of its subordinates; but it is the duty of the Secretary of State for the Home Department to place these subordinates in communication with each other, and not allow them to publish by his authority and under his name contradictory or discrepant statements of the same facts. In the "Criminal Tables" first referred to, and in the "Reports of the Prison Inspectors," there is equally "an account of the number of persons committed for trial or bailed at the assizes and sessions," and an "account of the number of prisoners tried at the assizes and sessions in every year." But in the Tables and the Reports, though the facts described are substantially the same, the numbers are in every year different. They are two different versions of the same public story told by the same Home Secretary; one or the other is unnecessary; to publish two, causes great additional trouble and expense, while both being without any explanation of the points of difference create only perplexity and confusion. Why cannot the Home-office make one return of the persons committed for trial suffice, and avoid misleading and contradictory repetitions?

The Prison Inspectors, too, very properly accompany their returns of the number of persons committed and summarily convicted, &c., with an estimated amount of the population for every year; and the Registrar-General also publishes, in his quarterly and annual returns of births, deaths, and marriages, an estimated amount of the population in every year. Both are published by the authority of the Home-office, and both should be the same. But the estimated amount of population for every year in the two is essentially different. The Home Secretary, by the prison inspectors, asserts that the population of England and Wales was, in 1852 for example, 18,165,867; and by the Registrar-General the same Home Secretary informs the public it was 18,206,000. Which assertion of the Home Secretary is the public to believe? He is a great reformer, our Home Secretary; he is raising a hornets' nest about his ears by his measure to reform the Corporation of London; and his efforts in this direction would be more successful if nobody could point to Whitehall and call on him to reform his own office. It obviously wants a guiding head to direct the subordinates to work together on some common plan, and to work diligently, so as to supply the public speedily with clear, simple, and well-digested information. To take five years to prepare a prison report, and then to publish discrepancies and contradictions, is to be more disgracefully behind this runaway age than any boor who will persist in sending his wheat to market in his own cart by the common road instead of consigning it to the rail.

FIRE INSURANCE.—Our readers are aware that the subject of the Fire Insurance Duties has not escaped us, in reference to the probable loss of them to the revenue; and the more we see or hear of the question the more we see that the end must be a great reduction or a total abolition of them; for the Chancellor can only in the mean time save a portion of the amount by his bill at the cost of business to the British insurance companies—a loss which is now going on, as can be

proved. Is Sir Cornwall Lewis aware that French policies are now delivered in England as parcels, to be signed for, and their cost paid as "carriage," in a delivery-book? This is only one of many subterfuges that will be found to obtain for foreign companies a share of British fire insurances; and well did Mr. William Brown (M.P. for South Lancashire) and Mr. James Kennedy (the General Manager of the Lancashire Insurance Office, on the occasion of this Company's influential deputation to the Chancellor) call attention to the large amount of marine insurance done abroad ever since the dilatory conduct of the Government at the close of the war in 1814 and 1815, in reducing the Marine Insurance Duty, gave an opening and a footing to foreign competition for a share of that valuable British business. The second reading of this Fire Insurance Bill has been twice or thrice fixed, but deferred, owing to motions of Supply; and we have seen, from the money articles of the *Times*, that our active men of business of Manchester, Liverpool, and Glasgow, do not intend to let it pass in silence.

METROPOLITAN NEWS.

HOTEL AND TAVERN KEEPERS' PROVIDENT INSTITUTION.—The seventeenth anniversary of this excellent institution was celebrated on Wednesday evening by a public dinner at the Freemasons' Tavern, Great Queen-street. Herbert Ingram, Esq., M.P., presided. The company having partaken of an excellent dinner, provided in the best style of this far-famed hotel, the usual loyal toasts were disposed of. The Chairman, in proposing the toast of the evening, "Prosperity to the Hotel and Tavern Keepers' Provident Institution for the Relief of Neccessitous and Aged Members," observed that the object of the association was to provide, in a time of prosperity, what funds might be required for helpless members in a time of adversity. He thought that that was a very praiseworthy object, and therefore he had great pleasure in acceding to the request made to him to preside on that occasion (Hear). He believed that the present condition of the hotel and tavern keepers, and the existence of this institution, were marks of the advancing civilisation of the age. What was the state of this country a few centuries ago? Why, then, travellers could find no place to obtain refreshments except at monasteries, and they were not always to be relied on, for the monks did not treat King John very well in Lincolnshire. It had been said that London could not exist without morning papers, but he considered that hotels were a greater necessity, and concluded by wishing prosperity to the institution. The toast having been duly acknowledged, Mr. S. E. Tapster, hon. secretary, presented the report of the committee, from which it appeared that the receipts of the year just ended amounted to £600 12s. 4d. The institution at the present time consists of 199 members, viz., 149 life members, 50 annual members, besides six widows of deceased members not included in the return, who are on the funds. It continues to receive support from about twenty-seven honorary annual members, and numerous donors. The committee state that they have been enabled during the last year to fund the sum of £105 9s. 4d., after paying all expenses, making the funded capital £5,700 3s. 4d., although the institution suffered last year, as most other institutions have done, from the increased taxation in consequence of the war. The report having been approved of, Mr. Wm. J. O'Connell proposed the health of the chairman, which toast was very warmly received. Mr. Ingram having briefly responded, several complimentary toasts were proposed, and a considerable sum subscribed towards the funds of the institution.

BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION FOR THE RELIEF OF AGED AND INFIRM JOURNEYMEN TAILORS.—The anniversary festival of this institution was celebrated at the London Tavern on Wednesday evening; Viscount Ingestre in the chair. The company, upwards of 200 in number, consisted for the most part of subscribers to the charity, and followers of the trade for whose benefit it was established. The Chairman proposed, in the usual form, the toast of the evening, "Prosperity to the Institution," &c., and impressed upon the company the necessity of doing all in their power to promote the interests of the charity. He was not urging them to establish an institution, but simply to maintain one which they had already created. He was happy to be informed that it was their intention to enlarge the sphere of their operations. He had himself visited the building, and was much pleased to observe that the inmates were properly taken care of. He therefore hoped that the benevolent objects of the institution would be so far promoted that the numerous company present would ensure a large subscription. Mr. Cartwright, the president of the society, having proposed "The health of the Chairman," his Lordship returned thanks, and expressed his intention not only to contribute a donation upon that occasion, but to give an annual subscription. This intimation was heartily responded to by the company; and, when the list of subscriptions was read, a donation of £10 10s. from his Lordship was followed by many other subscriptions, amounting to £800. This, the Chairman announced, was £200 more than was collected at the last anniversary, and he congratulated the company upon such a result.

THE REFORM BILL FOR THE CITY OF LONDON.—A Common Hall of the City of London was held in the Guildhall on Tuesday afternoon, to consider the London Corporation Reform Bill. The attendance was very scanty. The Lord Mayor presided. Mr. James Laurence moved a resolution affirming that the measure was destructive to the interests of the City, and pledging the Common Hall to give it their most determined opposition. Sir John Finley seconded the resolution. Mr. F. Bennock moved an amendment stating that the bill was wise and moderate, and pledging the Common Hall to do its best to secure its passing. Mr. Bateman seconded the motion. The amendment was ultimately negatived, and the original resolution carried by a large majority. A petition to Parliament was afterwards adopted against the bill and a resolution declaring that the livery were fully alive to the desirableness of reforming all abuses, and would gladly accept any just and proper scheme for that purpose. The proceedings then terminated.

MEETING OF METROPOLITAN CAB PROPRIETORS.—A general meeting of the London Hackney-carriage Proprietors was held at the Coach and Horses Tavern, Marsham-street, Westminster, on the 11th inst., for the purpose of considering the expediency of starting one-horse metropolitan stage-carriages. The meeting was well attended. From the statements made by the speakers it appeared that the new French Omnibus Company had sensibly affected the cab trade, and therefore the cab proprietors had drawn up a plan, to which they had obtained the sanction of the authorities, for starting 200 or 300 one-horse stage-carriages, to ply at the same fares as the omnibuses, and not less than twenty on each road. A resolution affirming the expediency of carrying out this project was unanimously adopted.

ROYAL LONDON OPHTHALMIC HOSPITAL, MOORFIELDS.—The annual general meeting of the governors was held at the hospital on Tuesday, the 15th inst.; Mr. Labouchere, the treasurer, in the chair. It appeared from the report that the number of admissions during the past year was 9974; and that the number of out-patients admitted from the 1st of January to the 25th of March, 1856, was 2196; being an increase of 514 over the corresponding quarter of last year. From the cash account it appeared that the ordinary annual income was less than the expenditure by upwards of £500.

ROYAL HUMANE SOCIETY.—The eighty-second anniversary of this charity was celebrated on Wednesday evening, at Freemasons'-hall; the Duke of Wellington presiding. The friends and supporters of the institution mustered in large numbers. The Duke made a very eloquent appeal on behalf of the society, which was supported by Sir K. Peel and others. A procession of a considerable number of persons who had been rescued from drowning added interest to the proceedings of the evening. The subscriptions after the dinner amounted to about £600.

A FEMALE JACK SHEPHERD.—On Wednesday afternoon, shortly before five o'clock, a female effected her escape from the custody of the gaoler of the Southwark Police Court in a most mysterious manner. The name of this daring female is Mary Ann Leonard, alias Poll Gardiner, a woman about thirty years of age, and connected with a gang of house-breakers and omnibus thieves in and about the metropolis. She was tried at the Surrey Sessions on the 20th of August for pocket-picking, and sentenced to six years' penal servitude. While in Horseman-lane gaol she made her escape in disguise, last February, and evaded the vigilance of the authorities until Monday evening last, when she was apprehended in Liverpool, having taken her passage in a vessel that was to sail for New York next morning. She was locked up with other females by Down, the gaoler, in one of the cells at the rear of the Southwark Police Court. On Wednesday afternoon, while the prisoner was conversing with some friends in the gaoler's room, the gaoler was suddenly called into the court, and on his return, after an absence of a moment or two, he was surprised to find that she had made her escape through the court, and got safely off.

TRIAL OF PALMER.—At the Court of Queen's Bench, on Wednesday last, the Attorney-General moved for a rule under the law which had just passed the Legislature that the indictments and informations charging the prisoner with wilful murder should be removed, and the prisoner brought up from Stafford, and that he be tried at the next session of the Central Criminal Court. The rule was granted. Mr. Grey, on the part of the prisoner, applied for a rule calling on the solicitors for the prosecution to furnish copies of the analytical report of Dr. Taylor as far as regarded the tests made by him for the discovery of antimony and strychnine in the stomachs of the persons alleged to have been poisoned by the prisoner.—The Court, after some consideration, refused the rule, on the ground that on the cross-examination of Dr. Taylor the information sought for might be obtained.

TOWN AND TABLE TALK ON LITERATURE, ART, &c.

ARTISTS assure us that we are to have a first-rate Royal Academy Exhibition, and yet we are to have nothing from Mulready, Maclise, Cope, Creswick, and Egg. Can this be so? From what we have seen ourselves there is a fair promise of a good Exhibition. Stanfield has sent an abandoned hulk (he calls it "The Abandoned"), the perfect picture of desolation, solitude, and neglect. Roberts will exhibit "Christmas-day in St. Peter's, at Rome," marvellous for the mastery of its architecture, its space, its pomp, its breadth, and picturesque truth. It is the picture (some will suspect erroneously) of an earnest convert from Presbytery to Popery. We shall watch the face of Cardinal Wiseman at the private view, and expect to see the great painter, hat in hand, before the modern Wolsey. Frith contributes a delightful picture in his best manner—a little girl's birthday dinner. Ward has paid a second visit to France during the time of Louis XVI., and has outdone his former doings. Millais is again a marvel—prolific, varied, inventive, and a perfect master of colour. Ned Cooke more than confirms his well-earned reputation, and divides our admiration between Venice and Amsterdam. Frank Stone will be found to have lost no one particle of his old power of pleasing. Mr. Solomon has made rapid strides into the Academy ranks; Miss Solomon, Miss Osborne, and Miss Mutrie more than maintain the reputation in art of the fairer sex. But Phillip—Phillip of Spain—it is he who will sink all who are hung near him for character and colour. He has been to Spain, and drank deeply of Murillo and Velasquez to good purpose.

The Calcrafts or hangers of the Royal Academy this year are Messrs. Cope, Dyce, and Cousins. This is the first time that an engraver has been admitted to the troublesome honour of arranging pictures for the Academy Exhibition. Some bad jokes respecting Mr. Cousins's present employment are uttered in artistic circles. Mr. Cousins is a mezzotint engraver; and he will now, it is said, evince for the first time in his life his sense of the value of the *line* manner. To be "on the line" is the ambition of every artist. The joke is none of the best even with this explanation. We give it as we heard it.

The papers have lately been full of controversial letters. Thus we have had General Hall v. General Cavendish; Mr. Abraham Hayward v. Mr. John Wilson Croker; Mr. Gye v. Mr. Surman; Resurgam v. the Senior Churchwarden of St. Margaret's, Westminster; Mr. Stanley v. the Bishop of Bangor; and now we have Mr. Harcourt Vernon v. Mr. Lance and Velasquez. There is a show of smart hitting in some of the letters, with more than a sprinkling of bad composition in the Bishop's correspondence.

The Sibthorp Collection under Christie's hammer will bring, so knowing ones confidently state, at least ten thousand pounds. Some one the other day called Mr. Christie "the inevitable and inexorable Christie":—

The pomp of china and the pride of plate,
And all that Sibthorp or that Bernal bought,

await alike the inevitable hammer of the inexorable Christie. Whatever we collect is ultimately scattered by Christie and Manson, or Sotheby and Wilkinson.

We learn with pleasure that Messrs. Whittaker and Co., the proprietors Mr. Collier's well-known and highly-esteemed edition of "Shakespeare," published in 1843, in eight volumes octavo, have just concluded an agreement with Mr. Collier for a revised and cheap reprint of it, in six octavo volumes. Mr. Collier's edition is especially valuable for the fulness and accuracy of its collations with the early quartos.

The Rogers Catalogue is out, and a very tempting catalogue it is. The executors have made the most of what they have. We read of "the sweepings of Pope's study," which Martha Blount gave gratuitously to one person and Lord Bolingbroke and Marchmont to another. Here we have the "sweepings of Rogers' study" transferred to an auction-room, and catalogued for sale. "The sweepings of Pope's study" would open the purses of many a rich collector.

Many additions of moment have been made during the past year to the British Museum, by purchase, presentation, and bequest. To the Print Room has been added (by bequest of Mr. Chambers Hall) a celebrated study by Raphael, for the "Entombment of Christ," consisting of nine figures, the picture of which is in the Borghese Palace. The works of Hollar have been enlarged to eighteen volumes. Sir Frederic Madden has added the original MS. of Scott's "Kenilworth" to the treasures under his care. Mr. Hawkins has materially enriched the British Collection of Antiquities. Let us enumerate a few articles of value added to this branch of the Museum. The presents, it will be seen, are very numerous:—

- A very fine Greenstone Celt, found near Pendle, Lancashire, presented by Ralph Holden, Esq.
- A Stone Hammer-head, found on Swanton Moor, Derbyshire, presented by Elvyn P. Shirley, Esq., M.P.
- A Stone Bead, locally known as a Pixy's Grindstone, found near Liskeard, Cornwall, presented by H. Pollard, Esq.
- A collection of Bronze Celt, Broken Metal, and remains of Castings, found near Croydon, Surrey, presented by Lewis Loyd, Esq.
- Three Bronze Celts, found near Goudhurst, Kent, presented by Stringer Stringer, Esq.
- A Bronze Celt-Mould, found in South Wiltshire.
- An Iron Celt, at present considered unique, with remains of its original handle, found in North Wales, presented by Frederick R. West, Esq., M.P.
- A collection of enamelled Horse-Trappings of the latest Celtic period, found at Westhall, in Norfolk.
- Silver Ingots (some incised) and Ornaments of the Roman Period, found, with coins of various Emperors from Constantine to Eugenius, at Coleraine, in Ireland.
- Two Porcelain Beads, found in Scotland, probably of Egyptian manufacture and of the Roman period, presented by Sir James Ramsay, Bart.
- A Roman Tile, stamped with the name of the XX. Legion, found at Chester, presented by the Rev. W. Massie.
- A Saxon Brooch, found at Mentmore, Buckinghamshire, presented by Frederick Ouvry, Esq.
- A Saxon Sword and other Weapons, found on the site of the battle of Ashdown, in Berkshire, presented by Earl Craven.
- A Saxon Gold Ring inlaid with niello, found near Peterborough.
- A Gold Hawk's-ring, found at Biggleswade, bearing the name of the King of England, from the Bernal Collection.
- An ancient Gaelic Brooch, which appears to have belonged to the family of McLean of Lochbuy, from the Bernal Collection.
- The Garter Plate of Sir William Parr, Marquis of Northampton, and brother to Queen Katharine Parr, which was removed from his stall at Windsor, on his attainer in 1553.
- Several Encaustic Tiles, presented by Sir Henry Ellis, K.H., and Mrs. Stackhouse Acton.

That noble Monteith, or silver punch-bowl, of the Queen Anne era, to which we directed attention as one of the treasures of the Sibthorp Collection, brought £27 12s. 8d. Silver is sold by the ounce. Need we add that the gallant Colonel gave a much smaller sum for it; and yet the "figure" is not high.

The possessor of one of the finest collections in this country of autograph letters—Mr. Henry Belward Ray—is just dead. He bought in the old days of Glynn in Pall-mall, and bought with liberality and judgment. The fate of his collection has not reached us: the "inevitable" hammer, no doubt.

There is a great and important move at Manchester for the exhibition in that city in 1857 of the art treasures of the United Kingdom. We shall have something to say next week in favour of the project. At present any statement of particulars is premature. The Manchester people are thoroughly in earnest in the matter.

OAK DESTROYED BY LIGHTNING.—On Monday, the 7th inst., during a storm, a fine oak was struck by lightning in Heimingham Park, Suffolk, the seat of John Tollemache, Esq., M.P. The tree was shattered and entirely prostrated, and its limbs were scattered by the lightning over a large space of ground.



THE CRIMEAN INQUIRY.—EXAMINATION OF THE EARL OF LUCAN.

MONSTER MORTAR.

THIS immense mortar was cast at the works of Messrs. George Forrester and Co., Vauxhall Foundry, Liverpool. The rough casting weighed about thirty tons; having had a head cast on it the same length as the finished mortar. The metal is entirely of charcoal iron, from the Acadian Company's mines, near Nova Scotia. It is a very pure and strong metal, showing in analysis very little, if any, sulphur; and giving a transverse bearing power of over ten tons per square inch bar, with bearings three feet apart.

The shells to be fired from this mortar weigh, uncharged, rather more than 5 cwt. each; and it is expected that with a full charge, or about 40 lb. weight of powder, the range will exceed 7000 yards. The average range of the present 13-inch sea-service mortars is 4200 yards with 20 lb. weight of powder, and the shell under 2 cwt. The diameter of this monster mortar is 18 inches in the bore, by 5 ft. 8½ in. length of chamber; its outside dimensions being 3 ft. 9 in. diameter by 7 ft. 6 in. long. The finished weight is 14½ tons.

The introduction of the above metal into gunnery is calculated to give a wholesome impetus to the manufacture of English iron for similar purposes; as we believe metal in every respect suitable for very large ordnance to be still a desideratum.

RUSSIAN COMMERCE IN 1854.—

The official returns of the foreign commerce of Russia in 1854 have just been published, from which it appears that the approximate value of the merchandise exported from Russia in 1854 amounted to 65,337,681 silver roubles, and that of the imports into that country to 70,358,668 silver roubles, making together a commercial movement of 135,696,349 roubles, or 542,785,896*l.*; showing, as compared with 1853, which was considered as an average year, a falling off of 307,000,000. Among the merchandise exported, wheat stands for the sum of 15,953,482 silver roubles (nearly 32,000,000 francs); wood for 2,809,187 roubles; flax, hemp, and linseed, form the other principal articles of export. Among the merchandise imported, cotton stands for 3,275,464 silver roubles, and spirits for 6,577,796 roubles, &c.—*Letter from St. Petersburg.*

MR. DEANE, THE DIVER.—A

Sebastopol Correspondent writes:—"The Russians say that the shot of the Allies sometimes struck their boats full of men crossing from the North side, and sunk them, and they take pride in relating the horrors of the siege. Some of them will never be known. Mr. Deane, the diver, has, however, brought others to light. Close by the ruins of Fort Paul, whence the bridge started to the north side, he discovered at the bottom of the harbour a battery of field-artillery, horses, men, and all, entangled in the harness, and with their skeletons just hanging together in the network of leather. He has fished up five field-pieces and two howitzers. They are filled with mud, but they can soon be made fit for Woolwich. The wood of the carriages has been utterly destroyed by the teredo navalis, or whatever it is which lives on such hard fare. On the skeleton of one of the horses there were the bones of a driver held together by the rags of his uniform, and with his foot still in the stirrup!"

THE MILITARY INQUIRY AT CHELSEA HOSPITAL.

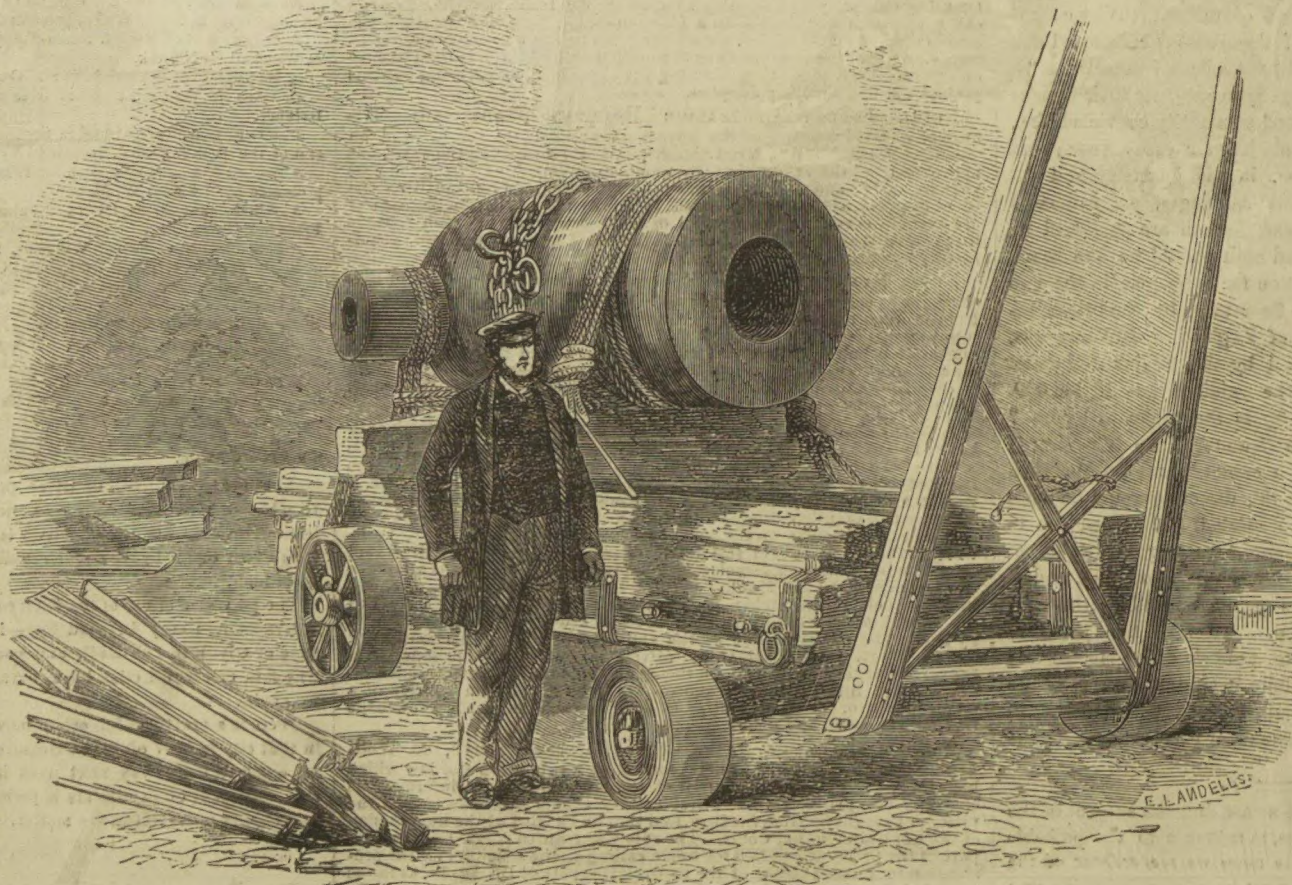
THE inquiry into the conduct of the officers referred to in the Report presented by Colonel Tulloch and Sir John M'Neil, was commenced at Chelsea Hospital, on the 3rd inst., before the Board of general officers, composed of Sir Alexander Woodford (President), Lord Beauchamp, General Rowan, Sir John Bell, General Peel, M.P., General Knollys, and General Sir George Berkeley. The large hall has been admirably arranged for the convenience of all who have business to transact; while for the public ample accommodation is provided on ascending stages occupying fully three parts of the hall.

At half-past eleven o'clock the general officers composing the Board entered the hall. They were all in full regimentals. The Judge-Advocate (the Right Hon. C. P. Villiers, M.P.) read the Royal warrant constituting the Commission, and explained the nature of the change made in the Board since its original formation, namely—Sir Alexander Woodford, in the room of Lord Seaton, who was originally appointed President, and Sir George Berkeley, in the room of Sir Thomas M'Mahon. The Judge-Advocate said that since the opening of the Royal warrant a communi-

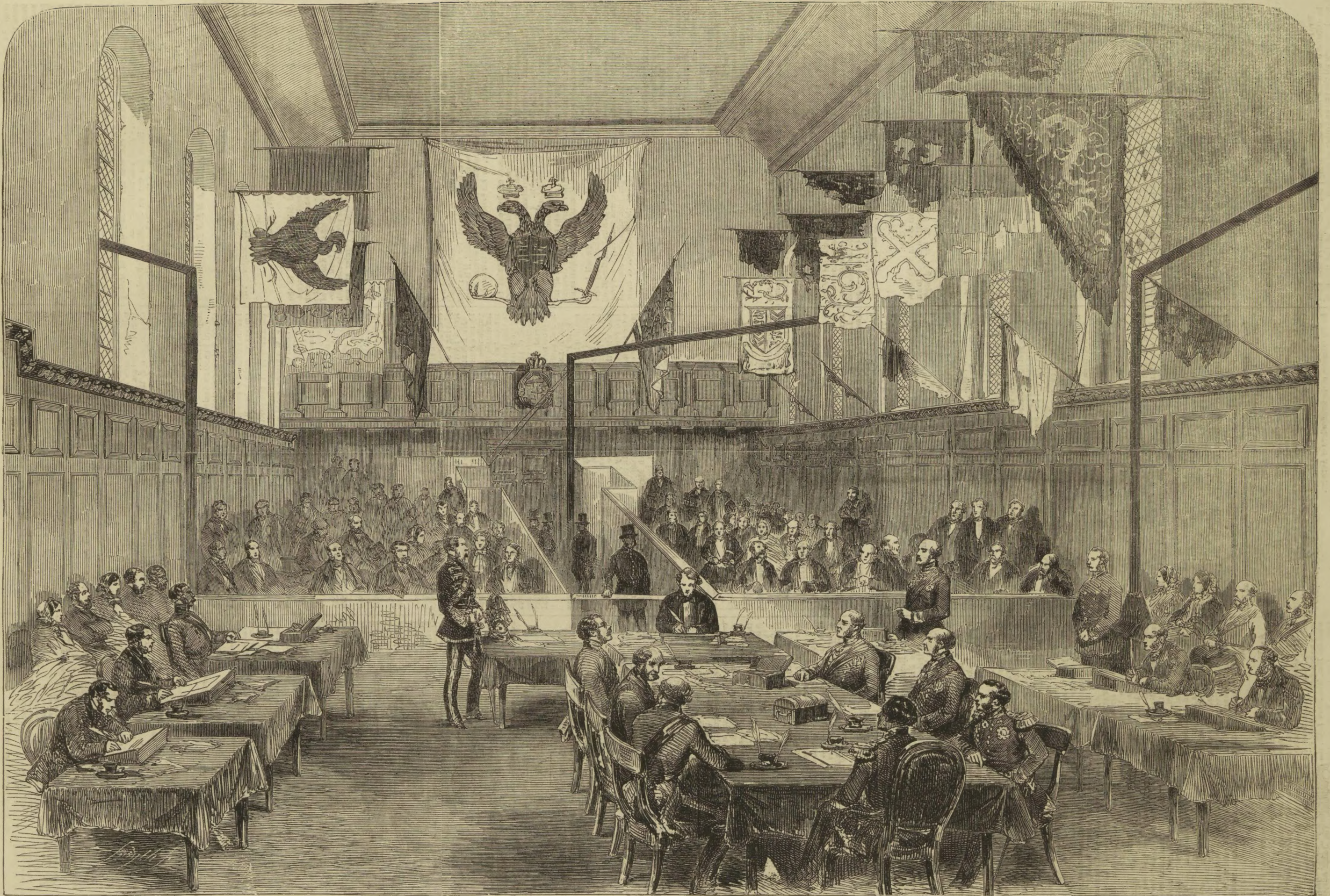
cation had been sent by Lord Panmure to the Commander-in-Chief, informing him of the appointment of the Commission, and requesting that he would make arrangements for its being conducted with due care and solemnity. The President asked the Judge-Advocate whether he could inform the Court of the names of the officers whose conduct had been animadverted upon in the Crimean Commissioners' Report, and who wished to attend for the purpose of laying evidence before the Board. The Judge-Advocate said that, after receiving the warrant, he made application to the Commander-in-Chief as to the names of such officers as had been animadverted upon in the Report of the Commissioners, and who, in consequence, had demanded a full inquiry, and he had received from the Horse Guards the names of four officers, namely—the Earl of Lucan, the Earl of Cardigan, Sir Richard Airey, the Quartermaster-General, and Colonel Gordon, the Deputy Quartermaster-General.

At the request of the Board the Judge-Advocate read a statement in reference to the manner in which the inquiry would be conducted:—1. The proceedings would be conducted as nearly as possible in accordance with the practice of military courts of inquiry. 2. Evidence might be given in the form of written statements, or by oral examination. 3.

The Board would not be empowered to examine witnesses upon oath. 4. Every military witness would be informed that he might decline to make any statement that might have the effect of subjecting him to a court-martial; but that, after that caution, any statement he made might be taken down and used against him. 5. The cases of the persons having a right to appear before the Board would be taken separately. The Judge-Advocate: Will the Board consider what matter should be brought before them in the shape of documentary evidence? It was arranged that copies of all papers laid before Parliament, and bearing upon the matter, should be submitted to the Board. The Judge-Advocate said that all papers bearing upon the inquiry that might be sent to his office should be produced. Sir G. Berkeley inquired whether any summonses had been issued? The Judge-Advocate replied that there had not, because none could be issued except under the direction of the Board. The officers whose conduct had been animadverted upon had no official intimation of the day of meeting, and would only become officially acquainted with it under the summonses which would be issued by the Board. Sir G. Berkeley: Are all the officers in town? The Judge-Advocate did not know; but he thought that by Monday (the 7th inst.) there would be time for every person interested to be summoned. The Board, after some deliberation, decided that Lord Lucan's case should be first taken, and that summonses should be issued to him, and to such witnesses as he might desire to call; and added, that it would be well for the officers whose conduct was to be inquired into to hold their witnesses in readiness. The Judge-Advocate said that, as the cases would be taken in the order of military rank, Lord



LARGE MORTAR, CAST AT THE VAUXHALL FOUNDRY, LIVERPOOL.



SITTING OF THE CRIMEAN BOARD OF INQUIRY, IN THE HALL OF CHELSEA HOSPITAL.

Cardigan's would follow immediately upon Lord Lucan's; then would come Sir R. Airey's; and, lastly, Colonel Gordon's. Did he understand the Board that no summonses should be issued to any other officers than those who had applied?—The Board decided that no other summonses should be issued until there were fresh applications from persons who supposed they had a right to appear before the Board. The Judge-Advocate inquired whether it was the wish of the Board that, as a matter of courtesy, some notification should be made to the Commissioners (Sir John M. Neil and Colonel Tulloch) that their Report was to be called into question during the course of the present inquiry? He did not know where the Commissioners were to be found, but he supposed there would be no difficulty in ascertaining at the Horse Guards. The Board decided that a notification should be sent to the Commissioners. It was arranged that the Board at its rising should adjourn until eleven o'clock on Monday, the 7th inst., and that the ordinary times of sitting each day should be from eleven o'clock a.m. until four p.m.

During the last fortnight the Board has met on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, each week. The attendance of the public has generally been pretty large, including a considerable number of ladies, who seem deeply interested in the inquiry into the causes of the frightful loss of life in the winter of 1854-5.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—FRIDAY, APRIL 11.

Some conversation on the details of the Church Discipline Bill was provoked by a motion for papers made by the Bishop of Bangor. The documents in question were ultimately ordered.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—FRIDAY, APRIL 11.

NATIONAL EDUCATION.

Lord J. RUSSELL, in resuming the adjourned debate, reverted to the speech made by Sir J. Graham on the previous night, and, while expressing some surprise at finding that right hon. Baronet assume the character of champion of revolutionism, proceeded to examine and rebut the charges brought against his own educational resolutions on account of their alleged compulsory and tyrannical nature. The noble Lord afterwards described the details of the machinery which he proposed to establish by his different resolutions for the purpose of providing a regular system of instruction, to raise the necessary funds, to supply existing deficiencies in the means and appliances of instruction, and to utilise the produce of bequests held in trust for the promotion of education. Denying that the scheme would interfere with the conditions of juvenile employment, or confer upon the Treasury a dangerous amount of patronage, the noble Lord concluded by proposing to withdraw, at all events for the present, the latter half of his series of resolutions, which contained the propositions that appeared to be most seriously controverted.

Sir G. GREY adverted in succession to the several resolutions presented by Lord John Russell, expressing his perfect accordance with the first resolution, setting forth the expediency of extending and revising the minutes of the Committee of Council on Education. The Home Secretary declared that the subsequent resolutions were altogether inadmissible. On abstract principles no doubt there was much to be said for them; but the resolutions in themselves had no practical efficacy; and, if it were attempted to embody them in some definite statutes, very serious difficulties would be encountered, leading, in his belief, to most intractable anomalies.

Mr. HENLEY, under the changed aspect of the scheme, consented to withdraw his amendment that the Chairman should leave the chair, extending his dissent, however, no further than to the first resolution.

Mr. GLADSTONE objected to this abrupt termination to a discussion that had already occupied the House for two nights.

Mr. DRUMMOND drew a distinction between instruction and education, declaring that the utmost efforts of the Legislature could but find means for instructing children to a certain degree, and that no amount of instruction would make an honest man. Neither Parliament nor Government had a right to attempt the work of religious education, which must be left in the hands of the Church.

Mr. GLADSTONE complained of the conduct of Lord J. Russell in retreating from his position in the midst of a formal debate. By this stratagem defeat had been forestalled, since the general sentiment of the House, with a few distinguished exceptions, was manifestly adverse to the resolutions. For his own part, the right hon. member declared he could find nothing in them to approve, except the intentions of their author.

Mr. DISRAELI recapitulated the turns and changes which the question had undergone during the two nights' debate, and commented in sarcastic terms upon the manoeuvre executed by Lord J. Russell in withdrawing half his resolutions from impending discomfiture, and recommended him to surrender the residue, rather than divide the House about nothing.

Lord J. RUSSELL replied, declining to withdraw the selected moiety of his resolutions.

Lord PALMERSTON appealed to Mr. Henley to withdraw his amendment and allow the division to be taken on the first resolution.

The general feeling of members seemed, however, adverse to this arrangement, and the Committee divided on the question that the Chairman should leave the chair.

The numbers were—Ayes, 260; noes, 158: majority against the resolutions, 102.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—MONDAY.

TORTURE IN INDIA.—The Earl of ALBEMARLE adverted once more to the practice of torture in India, and moved certain resolutions denouncing the system employed for the collection of the revenue. The resolutions were supported by extracts from the report of the commissioners appointed to inquire into the subject.—The Duke of ARGYLL joined in condemning the practice, and spoke of it as having been inherited by the East India Company from the original rulers of the country. It had always been declared to be illegal, and had never been sanctioned by the European servants of the Company. Measures were now in course of adoption for the final prohibition of torture in any shape or for any purpose. The noble Duke suggested that these facts should be incorporated in the resolutions, and, so amended, he would not object to them.—The Marquis of Clanricarde, the Earl of Ellenborough, Lord Montagu, and other noble Lords having spoken, the resolutions, as amended, were agreed to.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—MONDAY.

Mr. TOTTENHAM took the oath and his seat for New Ross. **KARS.**—Mr. WHITESIDE mentioned the terms of his motion on the subject of Kars, to the effect that he attribute the capitulation of that town to the want of foresight and energy on the part of her Majesty's Government.

THE ENLISTMENT QUESTION.—Lord PALMERSTON, in answer to Mr. Baillie, expressed his belief that early next week the correspondence with the United States on the enlistment question would be issued.

CENTRAL AMERICA.—Lord PALMERSTON, in answer to Sir E. B. Lytton, said he was very sorry the papers relating to Central America had not been presented already. They were now in print and had only to be revised, so that he expected to be able to lay them before the House in the course of the week.—Mr. BAILLIE said, after the statement of the noble Lord, he felt it his duty to postpone his motion.

RAILWAY AND CANAL TRAFFIC.—Mr. LOVE, in answer to Mr. Humphrey Brown, stated that the Government did not intend to bring in any bill for the better regulation of railway and canal traffic, or for the better prevention of accidents on railways.

The House then went into a Committee of Supply on the Civil Service Estimates.

BISHOP OF NEW ZEALAND.—Sir J. PARINGTON brought under notice the claim of the Bishop of New Zealand (Dr. Selwyn) to have his salary of £600 paid by the Imperial Legislature. Sir John argued that the discontinuance of that vote in the Estimates amounted to a breach of national faith, and expressed a hope that Mr. Labouchere, if disinclined to propose the vote to Parliament, would endeavour to induce the Colonial Legislature to take the Bishop's case into consideration.—Lord J. MANNERS expressed similar views.—Mr. LABOUCHERE and Lord J. RUSSELL asserted that there was no breach of faith, the original undertaking on the part of the Government being entirely dependent upon the willingness of the House of Commons to continue the vote. After the lapse of some years the House was disinclined to go on paying the salary, believing that the expense ought to be defrayed by the Colonial Legislature.—An amendment by Mr. WILLIAMS to reduce the salaries of the Governors of Jamaica and of Western Australia was lost by 269 to 3.

THE CONSULAR SYSTEM.—Mr. WISE urged the necessity of revising the consular system, and expressed a decided preference for the employment in that service of persons who had been specially educated for the discharge of the duties.—Lord PALMERSTON expressed a general concurrence in that view; and mentioned that the Foreign Secretary had issued circulars calling for information on the subject of consular duties. The information so obtained would be submitted to a Select Committee to be appointed next Session.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—TUESDAY.

The House sat for only half an hour, and transacted no business of public interest.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—TUESDAY.

FOREIGN LEGION. Mr. F. PEEL stated that the Foreign Legion now in British pay would be disbanded with the least possible delay; that the officers and men would receive all the pay and other advantages offered at the period of their enlistment, but were not entitled to pension or half-pay; and that the Crimean medals sent by the Emperor Napoleon would be distributed according to the French plan—namely, ten to every thousand men, General Codrington having been requested to select the particular recipients.

persons who might have rendered themselves most worthy of this special decoration.

MAYNOOTH COLLEGE.

Mr. SPOONER, pursuant to notice, moved a resolution to the effect that the House should resolve itself into Committee, "for the purpose of considering the Acts for the endowment of the College of Maynooth, with a view to the withdrawal of any grants made thereunto out of the Consolidated Fund, due regard being had to vested interests." In support of this resolution the hon. member reiterated at great length the arguments upon which he founded the assumption that the Catholic religion was false, dangerous, and unscriptural; and then proceeded to exhort the House to refuse any longer to afford a State support and legislative recognition to a creed so heretical and damnable.

After a few words from Mr. M'CANN, Mr. A. BLACK moved as an amendment that the inquiry suggested into the Maynooth Acts should be extended into the whole subject of religious grants for every denomination of Christians in Ireland. In point of numbers, he remarked, the members of the Established Church constituted only 13 per cent of the Irish population, the other sects comprising 77 per cent; while their respective shares of public money bore the proportion of £700,000 per annum for the Church of the minority to little more than £38,000 apportioned among the members of the other sects, the Roman Catholics included.

Lord CASTLEROSSE contended that the Maynooth grant was secured by the terms of the Union, and could not be disturbed without a breach of imperial faith.

Lord BERNARD denied the existence of the alleged compact, and declared that the principles inculcated at Maynooth had fostered disloyalty and disturbance in Ireland.

Mr. FAGAN thought the moment when peace was concluded between hostile nations was peculiarly inopportune for an attempt to stir up the embers of strife between religious sects. If carried, the majority in favour of the motion would be solely produced by an unnatural combination between the partisans of a Protestant establishment and the advocates of the voluntary principle.

Mr. WILKINSON could not consent to withhold the State support of Maynooth College so long as the Established Church in Ireland retained its enormous endowments.

Mr. KENNEDY pointed out the inevitable result to which the discontinuance of the Maynooth grant would inevitably lead. The great majority of the Roman Catholic clergy in Ireland must thenceforth be educated abroad.

Mr. DE VERE believed that any invasion of the rights of Maynooth would be the prelude to an interminable agitation among the Irish Roman Catholics.

Mr. DRUMMOND, without expressing the slightest approval of Maynooth as an educational or religious institution, apprehended that, if that establishment were assailed, every ecclesiastical endowment in Ireland would in its turn be subverted.

The motion was opposed by Mr. MEAGHER and Mr. DEASY, who vindicated in detail the social system and the political principles which grew up under the influences of Roman Catholicism.

Mr. NEWDEGATE remarked upon the aggressive spirit of the Papacy, and pointed to Austria as affording a proof that its tendencies to usurpation were still unmitigated. As an element and agent in forwarding the encroachments of this power he considered that Maynooth College was playing a highly dangerous part, having moreover latterly become infected more deeply than ever with Ultramontanism.

Mr. ROEBUCK reminded the House that Maynooth had been established by an essentially Protestant Minister, with the view of surrounding the pupils who were being educated for the priesthood in Ireland with better influences than they were likely to find in foreign seminaries. The same reasons which had originally prompted Mr. Pitt to grant an endowment to that institution still existed to forbid its discontinuance. From the very different circumstances attending the rebellion of 1798 and the outbreak of 1848, it was apparent that the Catholic priests, as well as the population of Ireland, had undergone a vast improvement during the interval, and had become enlisted on the side of loyalty and order. This improvement he believed to be fairly attributable to the teaching afforded in Maynooth.

Mr. KIRK having briefly opposed the motion, Lord PALMERSTON expressed his regret both that the subject had been again introduced in that House, and that it had been discussed in a mere spirit of polemical controversy. By the Legislature the question could only be treated in its political aspect; and in this point of view he contended that the Maynooth endowment was guaranteed by a solemn compact with the Irish people, while the purposes for which that institution had been supported for the past fifty years by the Imperial Government were satisfactorily accomplished. In the existing loyalty and advancing prosperity of Ireland he found a proof that wholesome influences prevailed in that country, among which Maynooth was entitled to a high place. Whatever objections might be raised respecting the details of education in the College—a question into which he would not enter—it was in his opinion a matter of much higher importance to provide that the rising generation of the priesthood in Ireland should at all events be brought up as Irishmen.

Mr. SPOONER having briefly replied, The House divided first upon the amendment proposed by Mr. BLACK, which was negatived by a majority of 253 to 21—232.

Upon a second division of the main question there appeared:—For Mr. Spooner's resolution, 159; Against, 133—26.

The House thereupon resolved itself into Committee, Mr. NEWDEGATE taking the chair.

Mr. SPOONER moved for leave to bring in a Bill to Repeal the Maynooth Endowment.

Mr. HUTCHINS moved that the Chairman should report progress, which was negatived on a division by a majority of 154 to 132—22.

The motion for reporting progress was renewed by Mr. D. O'CONNELL, but withdrawn after a few words from Mr. J. McGregor and Lord Palmerston.

The House then divided, for the fourth time, on the question that leave be given to bring in the bill. Ayes, 159; noes, 142—17.

The House having resumed, leave was given to bring in the bill.

On the motion of Mr. STAFFORD, a Select Committee was appointed to inquire into the administration of the medical department of the Army.

Leave was given to Mr. Horsman to introduce a bill to explain and amend the laws relating to lunatic asylums in Ireland.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—WEDNESDAY.

The Justices of Peace Qualification Bill was considered in Committee, and several clauses passed.

MINISTERS' MONEY (IRELAND) BILL.

On the motion for the second reading of the Ministers' Money (Ireland) Bill, Mr. HAMILTON moved an amendment, that the bill should be read a second time that day six months.

After a discussion (in which Mr. Meagher, Mr. A. Black, Mr. Miall, and Lord Bernard took part),

The SECRETARY for IRELAND explained the position in which the question now stood. A measure on the subject had been passed two years since, for which he invited a fair and deliberate trial. Should that Act prove inexpedient or inoperative, the Government, he declared, would undertake to introduce some comprehensive bill of reform in a future Session.

The bill was opposed by Mr. Napier. Mr. FITZGERALD vindicated the course pursued by the Government with respect to the measure.

Mr. WHITESIDE supported the amendment.

Mr. MAGUIRE and Mr. Serjeant O'BRIEN defended the bill.

Lord J. RUSSELL condemned the indecisive policy of the Cabinet. For the present, however, he consented to vote against the measure now before the House, trusting before long to find some bill introduced for the total abrogation of what he considered an unjust and vexatious impost.

On a division there appeared:—For the second reading, 121; for the amendment, 201—80. The bill is consequently lost.

The Reformatory Schools (Ireland) Bill was read a second time.

The Exchequer Bills (£21,182,700) Bill was read a third time and passed.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—THURSDAY.

The Board of Works Bill, and the Board of Works (Ireland) Bill, were severally read a second time.

Earl GRAVILLE, in reply to the Bishop of Oxford, said it was not his intention to proceed any further with his Education Bill in the present Session.

TROOPS, &c., TO CANADA.—Lord PANMURE, in reply to the Earl of Elgin, said it was quite true that a large military force and munitions of war were ordered to be sent out to the British North American colonies to replace the regiments and the stores that had been withdrawn from the Canadas during the late operations in the Crimea; but it was most unfounded to suppose that those movements were for the purposes of aggression.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—THURSDAY.

In consequence of there being only thirty-six members present at four o'clock, the House stood adjourned until Friday.

The Cunard propeller *Curlew* was lost on the 18th ult. off the coast of Bermuda. When near the North Breaker she suddenly ran ashore, and in three minutes afterwards broke to two and went down, her decks being under water. The crew were fortunately rescued, but the mails were all lost.

The Belgian Government has demanded a credit of 9,000,000*fr.* for the extension of the fortifications of Antwerp.

An order has arrived in Berlin for 18,000 ells of gold lace for the liveries of the Russian Imperial servants on occasion of the approaching coronation. It is said there are not hands enough in Berlin to turn out the quantity.

THE MAYNOOTH GRANT.—MR. SPOONER'S MOTION.

FOR MR. SPOONER'S MOTION.

Agnew, Sir A.	Duke, Sir J.	Jolliffe, Sir W. G. H.	Pellatt, A.
Anderson, Sir J.	Duncan, G.	Jolliffe, H. H.	Percy, Hon. J. W.
Arbuthnot, Hon. Gen.	Duncombe, Hon. A.	Jones, Admiral	Phillimore, J. G.
Archibald, Capt. M.	Duncombe, Hon. O.	Keating, H. B.	Pigott, F.
Baker, Sir J. J.	Dundas, F.	Kendall, N.	Pilkington, J.
Baldock, E. H.	Dunlop, A. M.	Ker, Sir J.	Repton, G. W. J.
Barnes, T.	Du Pre, C. G.	King, Hon. P. J. L.	Robertson, P. F.
Barrington, Viscount	East, Sir J. B.	King James K.	Rolt, P.
Bateson, T.	Egerton, Sir P.	Kinnaird, Hon. A. F.	Rust, J.
Baxter, W. E.	Egerton, W. T.	Knoatchball, W. F.	Seymour, W. D.
Bell, J.	Egerton, E. C.	Lalag, S.	Sibthorp, Major
Benbow, G. W. F.	Ellice, E.	Langton, W. G.	Smith, W. M.
Beresford, Rt. Hon. W.	Ewart, W.	Langton, H. G.	Smith, A.
Bernard, Viscount	Farnham, E. B.	Lockhart, W.	Smollett, A.
Bignold, Sir S.	Fergus, J.	Luce, T.	Staford, A.
Blackburn, P.	Ferguson, Sir J.	Mackie, J.	Stanhop, J. B.
Blackmore, J.	Floyer, J.	McGregor, J.	Stracey, Sir H. J.
Brock, Sir J. J.	Forster, Sir G.	McTearan, Sir J.	Stuart, Captain
Buck, Colonel	Freeston, Colonel	Masterman, J.	Sturt, H. G.
Buller, Sir J. Y.	Gardner, H.	Matheson, Sir J.	Thompson, G.
Burke, Sir C. M.	Gillpin, Colonel	Maxwell, Hon. J. P.	Tite, W.
Cairns, H. M. C.	Graeven, E.	Miall, E.	Tollemache, J.
Campbell, Sir A. I.	Greenall, G.	Milligan, R.	Trail, G.
Carnac, Sir J. E.	Grogan, E.	Mills, T.	Trotter, Hon. Sir J.
Challis, Mr. Alderman	Guinness, R. S.	Michell, W.	Vance, J.
Chambers, M.	Gurney, J. H.	Montgomery, Sir G.	Vansittart, G. H.
Cheatham, J.	Gwyd, H.	Morris, D.	Veraer, Sir W.
Child, S.	Haddo, Lord	Mostyn, Hon. T. E. M. L.	Vyse, Colonel
Cholmondeley, Lord H.	Hadfield, G.	Mowbray, J. R.	Waddington, D.
Cive, Hon. E. W.	Hamilton, Lord C.	Mundy, W.	Walcott, Admiral
Cole, Hon. H. A.	Hamilton, Rt. Hon. R. C. N.	Napier, Right Hon. J.	Warren, S.
Cowan, C.	Hardy, G.	Napier, Sir C.	Wise, J. A.
Crawford, E. H. J.	Hastie, Alex.	Newark, Viscount	Wood, B. T.
Crook, J.	Hastie, Arch.	Newdegate, C. N.	Wyane, W. W. E.
Crossley, F.	Hayes, Sir E.	Noel, Hon. G. J.	Yorke, Hon. E. T.
Davis, Sir H. R. F.	Hill, Lord A. E.	North, Colonel	
Davies, J. L.	Hindley, C.	Osulston, Lord	
Davison, R.	Hotham, Lord	Packs, C. W.	
Dod, J. W.	Irlon, S.	Palk, L.	
Duckworth, Sir J. T. B.	Johnstone, J.	Palmer, R.	

AGAINST MR. SPOONER'S MOTION.

Acton, J.	Fagno, W.	Lennox, Lord H. G.	Ricardo, O.
Antrobus, E.	Fitzgerald, Sir J.	Lewis, Rt. Hon. Sir G. C.	Rice, E. R.
Atherton, W.	Forster, C.	Littleton, Hon. E. R.	Richardson, J. J.
Bailey, C.	French, F.	MacEvoy, E.	Ridley, G.
Baines, Rt. Hon. M. T.	Gladstone, Capt.	M'Cann, J.	Roebuck, J. A.
Ball, J.	Gordon, Hon. A.	M'Mahon, P.	Russell, F. C. H.
Barling, Rt. Hon. Sir F. T.	Gower, Hon. F. L.	Maguire, J. F.	Russell, F. W.
Barnham, F. B.	Grace, O. D. J.	Manners, Lord J.	Schofield, W.
Beaumont, W. B.	Graham, Rt. Hon. Sir J.	Martin, P. W.	Scully, F.
Berkeley, G. C. L.	Greene, J.	Massey, W. N.	Scully, V.
Biddulph, R. M.	Grenfell, C. W.	Meagher, T.	Seymour, H. K.
Black, A.	Greville, Col. F.	Mine, Viscount	Seymour, H. D.
Blake, M. J.	Grosvenor, Earl	Moncrieff, J.	Shaw, W.
Bond, J. W. M. G.	Halford, Sir H. C.	Monell, Right Hon. W.	Smith, Rt. Hon. R. V.
Bonham-Carter, J.	Hall, Rt. Hon. Sir B.	Mowatt, F.	Steel, J.
Bowyer, G.	Hankey, T.	Mulgrave, Earl of	Strutt, Rt. Hon. E.
Brady, J.	Harcourt, G. G.	Murrough, J. P.	Sullivan, M.
Brand, Hon. H.	Layard, Rt. Hon. W. G.	Norrey, Sir D. J.	Swift, R.
Brotherton, J.	Heard, J.	North, F.	Tancred, H. W.
Burke, Sir T. J.	Hendry, D. O' C.	O'Brien, P.	Thornely, C.
Burg, Hon. G. H. C.	Heneage, G. F.	O'Brien, J.	Tottenham, C.
Clinton, Lord R.	Herbert, A. H.	O'Connell, Captain D.	Vivian, H. H.
Cockburn, Sir A. J. E.	Beywood, J.	Oliviera, B.	Waterpark, Lord
Cocks, T. S.	Higgins, Colonel O.	Palmerston, Viscount	Watson, W. H.
Coote, Sir C. H.	Holroyd, R. S.	Paxton, Sir J.	Whitman, J.
Deasy, R.	Horsman, Rt. Hon. E.	Peel, Sir R.	Whitbread, S.
De Vere, S. E.	Howard, Hon. C. W. G.	Peel, F.	Wilcox, H. M. G.
Deveraux, J. T.	Howard, Lord E.	Peel, General	Williams, W.
Dillwyn, L. L.	Hughes, W. B.	Perry, Sir T. E.	Wilson, J.
Duff, G. S.	Hutchins, E. J.	Phillips, J. H.	Wyvill, M.
Dunne, M.	Ingram, H.	Pimney, Colonel	
Dunne, Col.	Kennedy, T.	Power, N.	
Evelyn, Viscount	Kirk, W. P.	Price, W. P.	
Ewart, J. C.	Labouchere, Rt. Hon. H.	Pritchard, J.	

THE COURT.

The brilliant list of Court festivities which has been announced this week augurs well for the gaiety of the approaching season. The Queen's birthday is appointed to be celebrated on the 29th of May, when her Majesty will hold a Drawingroom, at which the Knights of the several orders present are commanded to wear their collars. The following Court entertainments have been announced by authority:—April 25, Juvenile Ball at Buckingham Palace. April 29, her Majesty's second Drawingroom. April 30, her Majesty's first State Concert. May 7, her Majesty's Levee. May 8, her Majesty's first State Ball. May 29, her Majesty's Birthday Drawingroom. May 30, her Majesty's second State Concert. June 17, her Majesty's second State Ball.

The Queen held a levee on Tuesday, at St. James's Palace. There was a very numerous attendance, chiefly of military officers. The Duke of Norfolk had an audience, and delivered to her Majesty the ensigns of the Order of the Garter worn by his late father. Her Majesty's costume on this occasion was much admired. It consisted of a train of pink satin, covered with English lace, and trimmed with bows of pink and white satin. The petticoat was of white satin, covered with English lace, and trimmed with bows of white satin. On her head the Queen wore a diamond circlet. After the Levee her Majesty took a drive in an open carriage and four, accompanied by the Princess Royal and the Princess Alice. The Prince Consort rode on horseback. In the evening the Queen and Prince Albert honoured the Opera with their presence. On the same day the Princess Royal and the Princess Alice visited Westminster Abbey; the Princesses Helena and Louisa and Prince Arthur went to the Zoological Gardens; and the Prince of Wales and Prince Alfred honoured Messrs. Day's lithographic establishment, in Gate-street, with a visit.

On Thursday the Queen and the Prince, with the Princess Royal, took a drive in an open landau and four. In the evening her Majesty and his Royal Highness visited the Adelphi Theatre.

Yesterday (Friday) the Queen and the Prince Consort paid a visit to the Camp at Aldershot, where a review of the troops took place. Her Majesty and his Royal Highness were to pass the night in the Royal Pavilion erected on the site of Caesar's Camp, and return to London this afternoon.

His Royal Highness Prince Albert will, it is understood, pay a short visit to France in the course of the summer. The object of the Prince Consort's visit will be to represent her Majesty at the baptism of the Imperial infant son of the Emperor and Empress of France.

Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent and his Serene Highness Prince Ernest of Leiningen went to Kew on Monday, and visited their Royal Highnesses the Duchess of Cambridge and the Princess Mary.

We understand the Earl of Clarendon has definitively fixed his departure from Paris for London for this day (Saturday).

Field Marshal Viscount Hardinge entertained his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge and a distinguished military party at dinner, on Monday evening, at his residence in Great Stanhope-street.

THE QUEEN'S VISIT TO THE WOUNDED SOLDIERS AT CHATHAM.—Her Majesty the Queen and his Royal Highness Prince Albert, with the Princess Royal, attended by the Countess of Desart, Colonel the Hon. C. B. Phipps, Lord Alfred Paget, and Colonel Seymour, left Buckingham Palace at two p.m. on Wednesday, and proceeded to the Bricklayers' Arms station, and thence by the North Kent Railway to Strood, where her Majesty was met by the Commandant of Chatham garrison, Colonel Eden, Colonel Savage, Colonel Sandham, Colonel Phillips, Major Gordon, and a number of other officers, both naval and military. Her Majesty having alighted, the Royal suite proceeded followed by a numerous party of officers on horseback in full uniform, to the Supplemental Hospital, Brompton, up the military-road, and over the drawbridge. On entering the barracks at Brompton the Royal party were received by a guard of honour, composed of the Royal Sappers and Miners, with their splendid brass band playing the National Anthem, the guard presenting arms. The Queen and suite having alighted, her Majesty was conducted to the opposite side of the barracks, where the convalescent invalids from the Invalid Depot were arranged, with cards in their hands, bearing their names, regiment, and the nature of their wounds, when and where received, also age and length of service, for her Majesty's inspection. The Queen passed down the whole length of the line (there being above 200 men), and minutely examined each card, and upon several occasions very feelingly addressed those who had lost limbs. The next part of her Majesty's visit was to see the sick and wounded in the wards of the hospital (there being 262 in the various wards). The Royal inspection terminated a few minutes before five o'clock, it having occupied about an hour and a quarter. Her Majesty was pleased to express her pleasure at the attention shown the troops by the medical officers of the establishment, and the excellent manner in which every department is conducted. The Queen was again loudly and enthusiastically greeted on leaving the barracks.

AN HEIRESS AT THE DRAWINGROOM.—There were two débûts at the Drawingroom last week that made a considerable sensation—one, the Princess Royal, who will in future regularly attend her Majesty's Drawingrooms; and another, the richest heiress, if rumour is to be believed, who has been presented at Court for several seasons, and whose fortune would, not to say it offensively, form a suitable dowry for a dozen Royal Princesses. I hear that every moustaiche in St. James's Palace assumed its most killing curl yesterday when the Hon. Miss Jones Loyd, the charming daughter of Lord Overstone, passed. One Duke, three Marquises, and a score of Earls have already announced their intention to lay formal siege to the heart of the young lady; and if she covets high rank, and an alliance with an ancient lineage, the puzzle will be, not to find a nobleman with these qualifications, but to choose among the throng of suitors.—London Correspondent of the Manchester Guardian.

MUSIC.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—We are glad to announce that the rumour which has been for some time current respecting the engagement of Mdlle. Piccolomini is entirely correct. Not only has Mr. Lumley positively secured the services of this extraordinary new singer, whose performances have created so much *furor* throughout Italy, but he has made favourable arrangements with two other *prime donne*—Mdlle. Albertini and Mdlle. Alboni. The season will commence on 6th May, with an opera to introduce Mdlle. Alboni. Some time in the following week Mdlle. Piccolomini will appear in Verdi's "Traviata" (new to this country), and shortly afterwards the "Trovatore" will be produced on a scale of great splendour, with Albertini as *Leonora*, and Alboni as *Azucena*. Of the merits of the latter lady it is scarcely necessary to speak; one of the most magnificent contraltos of the age, she is sure to be received with enthusiasm. Of the former we will merely say that, though by name, education, accomplishments, and celebrity, an Italian, she is by birth an English lady. In addition to these, a young artist, Mdlle. Finelli—gifted with a charming voice, and great personal attractions, but as yet unknown to fame—has been engaged; as well as Mdlle. Giuditia Lizza and several other stars. The tenors will be Signor Silviani, who performed *John of Leyden*, in the "Prophète," for forty nights at the Pergola (Florence); Signor Baucard, whose plaintive voice has already been heard at Her Majesty's Theatre; and Signor Calzolari, who has recently returned from St. Petersburg with fresh laurels and a still more beautiful voice than that with which a few years ago he delighted the English public. Signor Benevanti, one of whose great parts is *Don Giovanni*, has been engaged as principal barytone; and Signora Vairo and Zucconi as bass and buffo.

The attractions of the ballet are to include the "Corsaire," in which the exquisite Rosati will appear. Engagements have also been effected with two sparkling Italian and French *danseuses*, Mdlles. Boschetti and Liebreux, together with Mdlle. Rosa and a young Russian dancer of remarkable grace and beauty named Katinka.

With such a staff of great singers and dancers Mr. Lumley will, we hope, succeed in restoring the fortunes of his house. We have reason to believe that, before long, the public will be enlightened by the announcement of further and equally brilliant engagements; but we are unwilling to give currency to reports that have not as yet an actual foundation in fact.

THE PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY began its forty-third season on Monday last, under highly-favourable auspices. Several of its recent arrangements, and especially the appointment of a man so much esteemed and respected as Professor Sterndale Bennett as conductor of the concerts, have met with general approval, as has been shown by the amount of the subscription, which has not, we understand, been exceeded in any former year. This is the more evidently traceable to the nomination of Mr. Bennett, the unpopular choice of Herr Wagner, had a disastrous effect on last year's subscription. The reduction of the number of concerts from eight to six has likewise been a judicious and beneficial measure. The programme of Monday's concert was as follows:—

Sinfonia in C minor (dedicated to the Philharmonic Society) ..	Mendelssohn.
Requiem and aria ("Nozze di Figaro") ..	Mozart.
Concerto in E flat, Piano-forte, Madame Clara Schumann ..	Beethoven.
Overture ("Don Carlos") ..	Macfarren.
PART II.	
Sinfonia in A, No. 7 ..	Beethoven.
Requiem and aria ("Il Giuramento") ..	Mercadante.
Polo, Piano-forte (Variations Sévères), Madame Schumann ..	Mendelssohn.
Overture ("Preciosa") ..	Weber.

To every musician this bill of fare will speak for itself, and every one will agree that a choicer banquet could not have been presented. The society, it will be seen, has followed its usual course of disregarding the idle cry of "novelty." It has always given novelty when it has found novelty worthy of being given. Novelty accompanied with excellence is a recommendation to which the Philharmonic Society has never been deaf. Witness its production of all the works of the great masters; all the symphonies and overtures of Beethoven, Weber, Spohr, and Mendelssohn—which have been given to the world during the period of the society's existence. Let the world see a new Beethoven, a new Spohr, or a new Mendelssohn, and then if the society fail in its duty to produce his works it will really deserve to be blamed. The performance of every piece in the programme was excellent. Mr. Bennett discharged his new duty to the satisfaction—nay, the admiration—of every one. He conducted the orchestra with perfect firmness and self-possession; and (as might have been expected) his readings were uniformly the result of knowledge, taste, and judgment. We never heard the two masterpieces of Beethoven and Mendelssohn more beautifully given, and never saw them more warmly appreciated by the audience. Madame Clara Schumann, who appeared in England for the first time, supported her world-wide reputation. She possesses every quality of a great performer—energy and vigour, combined with the most exquisite softness, refinement, and delicacy; her volume of tone is immense, but it never degenerates into noise, and is as soft and mellow as her softest *pianissimo*. Her reception was enthusiastic, and she must have felt it to be gratifying. Madame Clara Novello, now more than ever the favourite of the English public, was the only vocalist on this occasion. This season she is singing with greater power and beauty than ever; and in many of the highest qualities of her art there is no singer in Europe—not even the Nightingale herself—who is her superior.

THE ORATORIO of the "CREATION" was performed by the Belfast Classical Harmonist Society, in the Victoria Hall, on Wednesday evening, April 9th, being the first time it has been produced by a society in the north of Ireland. The soloists were Mrs. Sunderland, Mr. Benson, of London; Mr. Rogers and Mr. Wood, of Armagh; with Mr. Turle, organist of Armagh Cathedral, accompanying on the society's organ—a fine instrument, built by Robson, of London. The chorus consisted of about ninety voices; the orchestra, partly composed of members of the local instrumental society (the Anacreontic), was very effective, consisting of about thirty performers. The audience was large and fashionable, and highly appreciated the efforts of the society in producing, for the first time in Belfast, a complete oratorio.

A new oratorio, entitled "Jephtha and his Daughter," by Herr Reinthal, of Cologne, was produced by Mr. Hullah, at St. Martin's hall, on Wednesday evening. It was most favourably received by a crowded audience; and it deserved its success, for there are many grand and beautiful things both in the airs and choruses. The performance, too, was exceedingly good. The principal solo parts were sung by Madame Clara Novello, Miss Palmer, and Mr. Thomas; and Mr. Hullah's choristers, as usual, were steady and efficient.

MR. AND MRS. HOWARD PAUL have been giving their comic entertainment, "Patch Work," in Liverpool, with very great success. They appear in Leeds the latter part of this month.

ITALIAN OPERA AT THE SURREY THEATRE.—A company is about to be formed for the production of Italian operas at the Surrey Theatre; the present managers—Messrs. Shepherd and Creswick—having, it is said, entered into arrangements with Madame Caradori, Madame Rudersdorf, Madame Gassier, Madame Lorini, Madame Sedlatzek, M. Gassier, Herr Reichart, Signor Lorini, Signor Baraldi, Mr. Swift, &c., and other distinguished artists.

THE THEATRES, &c.

PRINCESS.—On Thursday "Henry VIII." was performed for the 150th night at this theatre. This run, extraordinary as it is, has been fully justified by the manner in which the tragedy was placed upon the stage. As a spectacle the production has never been equalled; and as a performance seldom excelled. The next illustrative revival is announced for the benefit of Mr. and Mrs. C. Kean on Monday week—"A Winter's Tale," and we look forward to Mrs. Kean's impersonation of *Hermione* with the greatest interest.

HAYMARKET.—A new farce, called the "Postman's Knock," somewhat rudely constructed for the apparent purpose of introducing the song so named, has been produced at this theatre. The song itself is well sung by Mr. W. Farren; and the piece, aided by his talent, and that of Miss Lavine and Miss Schott, who also sing a ballad or two each, has been favourably received.

STANDARD.—Shakspeare still continues in the ascendant. A well-illustrated performance of "A Winter's Tale" has been added to those of "Antony and Cleopatra" and "King John." The company has been greatly improved; and the audience manifest more and more sympathy with the high poetry of our elder drama. There are those who still affect to wonder at this great fact, and to think that rude melodrama or domestic tragedy would better adapt itself to the tastes and aptitudes of a mixed popular audience. Even in literature this is not the case. To an

imaginative Byron, for instance, Crabbe appeared "England's sternest poet, and her best;" but, as Margaret Fuller has truly observed, to the poor and humble, whom he has described so feelingly and correctly, he is nothing of the sort. He may be valuable to them, as to the upper classes, as an interpreter, and still more as an advocate; but he is not "agreeable as a household friend." They have no special liking to see themselves either in print or on the stage. They want, as the female writer above named observes, "something romantic, something which takes them out of their sphere; and high-sounding words, such as they are not in the habit of using, have peculiar charms for them." The grandiloquent heroics of *Marc Antony* and *Leontes*, of *Cleopatra* and *Hermione*, have especial charms for such auditors. Though not always intelligible, these grand phrases are always influential. The hearer is spell-bound by the rhythm; and the music of the verse; if he cannot always catch the sense, he is secure of the sound. In this way a perception of pleasure is gained, and a touch of refinement communicated, by which even the "savage breast" is soothed, and the rudest minds are harmonised. Miss Glyn, in her various assumptions, prefers the purely classic in her style, and aims at a statuesque repose which to the unreflecting might appear hazardous with an east-end audience. It is, however, not so; for by them it is accepted as the most natural mode of utterance. This actress, too, has the great merit of speaking, not declaiming, the dialogue, and thus stands in contrast with the ordinary stage heroine. And to this no small part of her extraordinary success is owing.

NATIONAL SPORTS.

NEWMARKET commenced its meetings on Monday for the season, with a gloomy sky and a blank attendance. The Craven Stakes was far below what it was wont to be, but a good race was given against Fisherman, "cleverly by a head;" and the finish between Anemone and Armiger, on the Riddlesworth (which at one time seemed mortgaged to Lord Jersey and the Cobweb colts), was equally close. Saucebox essayed to give Lawn 43 lb. for his year in a £50 plate, over the 1½-mile Clermont course, but the "puce and white" failed against such fearful odds. Mr. Parr was equally unlucky with Apathy on Tuesday, who went down before an unknown colt of Mr. Stephenson's; and Furiioso, who was certainly the best-looking of the stock at the Royal sale of 1854, showed no temper, and won the Sale Stakes and a 100 to 1 place at the Derby betting. Saraband, who has long been considered the greatest rogue among the Yorkshire horses, ran the A. F. course with more nerve than usual; and, though it seemed any odds on Cannobie as they came down the hill from the Buses, he headed him half-way up the cords, and beat that great Derby favourite cleverly. Cannobie is, however, by no means disgraced, as he only received 9 lb. for his two years, and the distance was hardly long enough for him; he, moreover, triumphed on paper, as a cross was proved against Saraband after a long investigation, and the judge's decision reversed. Walmer had the day to himself on Wednesday, as he beat Victoria very easily for the Column, and got a 100-sovs. sweepstakes as well against the Clarissa colt, whose owner knew his fate by its third place in the Column, just before. The present was the first appearance of West Australian's sister, who had to supply the place of Fly-by-Night. This much-talked-of colt is said to have got a strain in the back sinews which reduces him to walking exercise and 25 to 1 for the Derby. Countess canards about the favourites are now in full circulation. The John Day party, it is averred, are really glad that Cannobie has arisen to meet Wentworth, as they did not wish to see their giraffe trot in alone, "with his ears pricked." Porto Rico has had—to judge from the support he receives—a capital trial for the Two Thousand Guineas; and Yellow Jack an equally satisfactory one with Omer Pacha; but there were people found who could relieve the tedium of a dull Craven Meeting by speculations as to whether Mr. Padwick had really sold this colt and Coroner in one lot for twelve thousand guineas! So runs the world away.

The Curragh Stands open on Tuesday for a four days' meeting, but the list is, to our English eyes, sadly meagre. Tuesday and Wednesday promise us a fair Spring Meeting at York. Nougat, Matilda, Willie Craufurd, Red White and Blue, Magnifier, Saunterer, and Skyutter, are all in the half-a-mile Zetland Stakes, which will most probably fall to the lot of Madame Cluquet, who has been tried very highly, both in public and private. The Spring St. Leger has no such array; and, if Tilly is in form, she and Fisherman and Heir of Lynne will be the principal competitors. Riddeman, 8 st. 10 lb.; Pandango, 8 st. 5 lb.; Siding, 7 st. 3 lb.; and Freddy, 6 st. 5 lb., are among the names which catch the eye in the Great Northern; and we should not be surprised, in spite of the weight, to see Pandango there or thereabouts as he was last year at the finish. The dead two-mile level of the old course requires a racehorse. Apathy, Nougat, and Amorous Boy are in the York Biennial, in which Skirmisher will either try to mend his Caterick running or yield his place to Sharpshooter, who is still untried; and Hospodar, 8 st. 3 lb., is by no means overweighted among the fifty-one left in the Lonsdale Cup, which is his favourite mile distance. A match between Marston and a Birdcatcher colt, the York Spring Biennial, which includes Hospitality, Ellington, Eglantine, Fisherman, and the dark Mario—two or three of whom are not likely to be found at the post; and the Flying Dutchman Handicap, for which Hospitality, 6 st. 4 lb., the first Chester Cup favourite, is hardly likely to start, and Zeta, 5 st. 9 lb., will, no doubt, worthily represent the Zetland "red spots," are the principal items of Wednesday. That over, the King will move on Malton, to see and hear about John Scott's lot, and enjoy a diluted edition of the sports of old Ebor on Thursday and Friday, over Langton Wold.

It seems that Lord Stamford gave 470 guineas for four couple of hounds at the Quorn sale—a price which is, as far as we know, unprecedented. Mr. Frank Sutton's seventeen couple of hounds did not secure a purchaser; and we understand that, when all was over, the family presented to Mr. Cradock a splendid candelabrum, as a testimony of the services he has rendered the Quorn hunt. It was the late Sir Richard's intention to have presented it last Christmas, if he had lived; and thus, for the present, the memorable Sutton dynasty at Quorn ends. Lord Stamford's late country has, we hear, secured a master from Herefordshire, in Mr. Orlando Stubbs, who undertakes to hunt it three days a week for three years. The Blackmore Vale hounds will be sold on May 12th; and Mr. Milbanke's Bedale stud come to the hammer at York on Wednesday.

Mr. Etwall has now another own brother to Andover in his paddocks, being the fourth he has bred since the Derby winner first saw light there in 1851. Canzou with a Chanticleer filly, and Miss Bowes with a West Australian filly, are at the Rawcliffe stud farm; and Mr. E. Parr has a half-sister to Stork, who will, by-the-by, do some strong execution at all distances before the season is out. Pioneer, the old steeplechase horse, who was once sold, like Discount, for 1100 guineas, and Black Peter, who was hardly so famed among the steeplechase flags, are both dead; and this sport is reduced for the ensuing week to "Castleside and Berry Edge" on Friday. Tom Oliver has scarcely had a mount all the season, so the character of the horses and the contests may be pretty well judged of.

We are rejoiced to say that Coombes's death—like Lord Brougham's when his carriage broke down in Cumberland, in the autumn of 1837, and such countless necrologies were written on him—has proved to be false, and that the veteran still lives to welcome his old "Varsity" pupils. The Cambridge boat-races begin for the term on Monday; and St. John's (1), Trinity Hall (2), is the order in which they will inaugurate their "bumping" struggles. There are also pair-oared races on the same day, for silver cups, at Chelsea. But the yachts are hardly under way yet for the season. Among these craft the Marquis of Alisa's new one (of 285 tons) is said to be a model of building, and has been christened the Killywake.

DURHAM RACES.—MONDAY.

Trial Stakes.—Queen of the South, 1. Little Ann, 2.
Hopeful Stakes.—Remedy, 1. Vesta, 2.
Durham Handicap.—The Maid of Derwent, 1. Eulogist, 2.
The All-aged Stakes.—The Lure, 1.
Tally-ho Handicap.—Sir Colin Campbell, 1.

TUESDAY.

Scurry Handicap Stakes.—Johnny Russell, 1. Kitty, 2.
Hunt Cup.—Rifleman, 1. Sir Colin Campbell, 2.
North Durham Handicap Stakes.—Eulogist, 1. The Medway, 2.
Selling Stakes.—Kitty, 1. Vanessa, 2.
New Stakes.—Remedy, walked over.

NEWMARKET CRAVEN MEETING.—TUESDAY.

Plate of 50 sovs.—Virago colt, 1. Apathy, 2.
Riddlesworth Stakes.—Walmer, 1. Duvernay filly, 2.
Sale Stakes.—Furiioso, 1. Bartle, 2.
Burwell Stakes.—Saraband, 1. Cannobie, 2.
Sweepstakes of 50 sovs. each.—Pitapat, 1. Alaster, 2.
Subscription Plate of 50 sovs.—Flower, 1. Brazen, 2.

A protest having been lodged against Saraband, on account of crossing Cannobie and Jack Sheppard, the stewards, after a long and patient investigation, decided that Cannobie was entitled to the stakes.

WEDNESDAY.

Handicap Plate of £50.—Woodcock, 1. Ariosto, 2.
Column Stakes.—Walmer, 1. Victoria, 2.
Match: £100.—Catalpa filly, 1. Palm, 2.
Craven Handicap Plate.—New Brighton, 1. Pretty Boy, 2.
Sweepstakes of 100 sovs. each.—Walmer, 1. Clarissa colt, 2.

THURSDAY.

Claret Stakes.—Rifleman, 1. St. Hubert, 2.
Newmarket Handicap.—The Earl, 1. Diego, 2.
Aske Produce Stakes.—Tyrrus, 1. Walmer, 2.
Sweepstakes of 100 sovs.—Dead heat with Pitapat and Theodora.
Handicap Plate of £50.—Ghika, 1.
Sweepstakes of 50 sovs.—Blue Mantle, 1. Hebe, 2.
Subscription Plate.—Maid of the Mill, 1. Shalah, 2.
Sweepstakes of 100 sovs.—Pitapat walked over.
Sweepstakes of 10 sovs.—Rudston, 1. Ratler, 2.
Match.—Palm beat Hardwick.

A good joke is told of the Hon. Rufus Choate, a popular American orator and lawyer. He had been invited by a committee of some public institution to lecture before it; but, from his reply, the committee were unable to decipher whether he had accepted the invitation or not!

The Divan has come to a decision to permit the entry of Russian merchant ships into the Bosphorus.

At the Wesleyan Sunday School, Blyth, on Sunday last, a sermon in rhyme was delivered by a Mr. W. Andrew.

A grand concert by Jenny Lind is to be given in Perth on Tuesday next. Special trains are to run from Dundee for the accommodation of those wishing to attend the concert.

The band of the Blues performed in Kensington Gardens on Sunday last for the first time this season, and an immense concourse of people of all ranks assembled.

THE BATTLE OF THE ALMA.—BY HORACE VERNET.

EVERY person who has been to Paris, even for a few days only, is familiar with the works of Horace Vernet. They cover acres of wall space at Versailles; and engraved, they fill up the shop-fronts of print-sellers. They excite the most enthusiastic admiration, and the most profound disgust. To one connoisseur these remarkable works represent all that is great and good in modern art, while to another they aptly illustrate the artistic degeneration of the times. Endless jokes and fervid eulogy, adoration and scorn, have by turns been the portion of the best-known living painter. It is difficult to bear success. It is no easy lesson, given world-wide popularity, to learn how to wear the wreath. Some plant it firmly upon their heads, and, thrusting their thumbs into the armbolts of their waistcoats, bid their brethren be good enough to remark the really magnificent effect. Some prop the wreath awry upon their brow, and go forth that the world may laugh at their buffoonery. Some, again, with affected modesty, drop the wreath in the nearest corner, and vow that it is by far too brilliant for their heads. These latter are generally the vainest of men. Still, it is possible to be both vain and swaggering; and it is by no means clear that the dashing Horace Vernet might not be put forward as an instance of this fact. He is said to be the most completely-decorated man in France. He might have been seen last autumn, at the Hôtel de Ville ball given to the Queen, literally covered with stars. He was a little firmament in himself, with a complete milky way of silver and diamonds stretching across his bosom. The modest spectator of this starry splendour could not refrain from asking himself whether the wearer might not have left at least a dozen of his planets at home. And then it seemed natural, after all, that Horace Vernet should wear them.

His pictures discover the man. He is the lover of show, the adorer of uniforms. Bright colours alone touch his eye. He catches the tints he loves in the glare of an Eastern noon. He hates shades of all kinds;—all to him is positive and palpable. It is true that he is master of the school he has created. Charming is the bold grace of his drawing. And, then, how faithfully he seizes upon the individuality of every man he has noticed! You may remark a thousand soldiers in his pictures, all alike as regards costume, but all different in form and face. He is wonderfully various in composition, and a master of military life. In private life he enjoys the reputation of being one of the most remarkable drummers of France. And then he fences, as any reader who has examined the interior of his atelier knows. He is loved in the army, for he has the qualities of a lively trooper. And then, it is said, that in all the battles he has painted—so thorough is his military knowledge—he has never put a battalion in a wrong position, nor exhibited a blunder in the appointments of the men. That his pictures will bear the critical inspection of Generals is a fact that does him credit as an amateur soldier, but has nothing whatever to do with his claims as an artist. Still these claims may be made good.

The truth is, Horace Vernet has been too warmly praised and too severely condemned. Neither his admirers nor his detractors speak the truth regarding him. His drawing is masterly; his study of the human face profound; his skies are too blue; his distances want air always; still, his foregrounds are grouped and painted in with a skill and feeling that are inimitable. Both his claims and his defects are admirably illustrated in the picture he has lately completed, and which we have engraved. Let the reader observe, for instance, the splendid drawing exhibited in the centre group, and principally in the officer and horse starting back at the approach of a cannon-ball. If, again, he would notice some evidence of the penetration with which Vernet seizes upon the characteristics of various classes of men, let him study the group in the left-hand corner of the picture. Here he will find a Zouave and a Highlander, both wounded, and trudging away from the fight, evidently savage that they are disabled. The Zouave wildly waving a trophy of his prowess towards Prince Napoleon (the central figure); while the sedate Highlander simply gives the military salute. The heads of these two soldiers are perfect studies. The Highlander is direct from the Highlands, the Zouave a most evident traveller from Algeria. Then again, how admirably is the group in the right-hand corner of the picture conceived and executed! The poor fellow bathing his horse's leg is one of the choicer specimens of Vernet's skill. Nearly all the central figures are portraits. The battle is seen from afar; although the ball whizzing past within a few paces of the Prince is meant to indicate that the assembled officers are actually under fire. The portrait of the Prince is an admirable likeness. Then there are General Thomas, wounded, and sustained by his Aide-de-Camp; Colonel Desauvres, first Aide-de-Camp to the Prince; the Duke d'Abrantes, and David, Aide-de-Camp, and grandson of the well-known painter—all admirably grouped. There are also indications of de St. Arnaud's Staff, and of the attacks led by Bosquet and Canrobert. In the central distance of the picture is a group of wounded Russians, most happily introduced; and, in the low ground, the river Alma is seen winding along. On the heights beyond, half-obscured by dense columns, are the Russians. Here, amid the trees in the half-distance, and in the general landscape, we may find the painter's weakness. Nature to him has not the charm with which she appears to the professed landscape-painter. Vernet paints trees, and sky, and fields, because these make up the frames for groups of fighting men. He loves fields, not freckled with buttercups, but strewn with dead and dying men. And where he loves he describes with the pencil of an accomplished master.

The picture, of which the engraving lies before us, was painted originally for Prince Napoleon, who figures in the very centre of it. The modesty of this is beyond all praise—especially after the verdict very generally passed upon the Prince's Crimean experiences. The first Napoleon has been painted in the centre of many battle-pieces; therefore has his nephew wisely argued—"Since I have been under fire, why should not I be taken in an heroic attitude?" The world, however, will be inclined to forgive the Imperial vanity, seeing that it has produced an admirable composition. There is a story in connection with this picture, furthermore, which gives it peculiar interest.

It appears that during the progress of the Prince's commission the Paris Universal Exhibition authorities gave in their decisions on the merits of the competing artists and commercial men. The Prince, as President of the Imperial Commission, was responsible for those decisions. Well, the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour was given to M. Ingres, an artist whom Vernet regards, of course, as a very poor creature indeed. The battle-painter was so mortified that this honour should have been given to a rival, that he declined to let the Prince have the picture. He then wrote a letter to Prince Jerome, reminding him that when he was King of Westphalia he bought his (Vernet's) first work. He now begged that his Imperial Highness would accept the painting of the Battle of the Alma as a mark of the artist's gratitude. Prince Jerome accepted the gift; and the picture is now in the Prince's apartments in the Palais Royal. Marshal Bosquet, who saw it a short time ago, has declared that it is an exact representation of the battle. We have, then, a picture of this memorable battle from a French point of view. Hardly a British soldier is seen (our attack having been to the left of the position), save a wounded Highlander and a dead General! Now there should be a companion work, taken from the British position, by Landseer. But perhaps the finest modern subject for the animal painter is the famous charge of the Light Cavalry led by Lord Cardigan!



THE BATTLE OF THE ALMA.—PAINTED BY HORACE VERNET.—(SEE PRECEDING PAGE.)

GENERAL CANNON.

ON Saturday last the quiet little town of Market Lavington, near Devizes, was enlivened by a communication made by the Rev. M. W. Mayow, the respected Vicar of the parish, that General Cannon, who has taken an active share in the European conflict, and has so faithfully followed the fortunes of that eminent Commander of the Turkish army, Omer Pacha, was about to pay his Lavington friends a visit on his return from the seat of war. This feeling was augmented on its becoming known that the gallant officer had given the rev. gentleman instructions to provide a liberal supply of bread to be distributed to the poor. It was at once



LIEUTENANT-GENERAL CANNON (BEHRAM PACHA).—FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY CLAUDET.

determined (as well as the shortness of the notice would allow) to give him a hearty welcome. At three o'clock in the afternoon the Lavington brass band, accompanied by several of the tradesmen on horseback, headed by the venerable churchwarden, Mr. Thomas Stobbert, and a large number of inhabitants, proceeded on the Erchfont road to escort the gallant hero into the town. After a short interval the carriage was seen descending the Eastcott hill, when the band broke forth in welcome strains "Cheer, boys, cheer!" Mr. Stobbert then rode forward and welcomed the gallant General to his once happy home, after the toils of his hard campaign; and trusted the peace which had been concluded might be as lasting as he hoped it would prove to be honourable to all.

The gallant officer replied in an address of soldier-like simplicity. He spoke of the hardships through which a soldier had to pass. He himself had often gone with two biscuits a day, but he thanked Divine Providence for having preserved his life, and allowed him again to see the happy faces around him. The horses were removed from the carriage, and a party of Wiltshire labourers drew him in triumph, upwards of a mile, and through the streets, amidst hearty acclamations. On reaching the Vicarage where the gallant General was to be entertained, the respected Incumbent, with his family, was in waiting to receive him. The gallant General thanked the assembled throng for their kind expression of feeling and sympathy. He then placed in the hands of Mr. Stobbert the sum of £10 (exclusively of the bread he previously ordered) to be distributed. Cheers followed this announcement, and the same evening the labouring men were supplied with beer, and all retired in good order.

Next day the bread was distributed to all who chose to apply for it, and was most thankfully received. The remaining sum was given to the aged women of the parish.

Lieut.-General Cannon is the second surviving son of the late Rev. D. Cannon, D.D. At an early age he entered the service of the Hon. East India Company; and in 1834 he served in the campaign against the Rajah of Coorg. In 1835 he joined the British Legion of Spain under General Evans, where he commanded the 9th and 10th Regiments, and took part in the several campaigns and actions, and was severely wounded in the storming of the lines of St. Sebastian, on May 5, 1836. On the expiration of the service Col. Cannon returned to his duty in India; but, his health failing, he retired on half-pay in 1847. On the breaking out of the war between Russia and Turkey, in 1853, Col. Cannon, with a few friends, proceeded to Turkey, and, with the authority of the British Government, accepted service in the Ottoman army, the Sultan conferring upon him the rank of Major-General, under the title of Behram Pacha. He was placed in command of a division of the army, and, whilst the Russians were laying siege to Silistria, he was sent off by Omer Pacha from Schumla, with 6000 men, to harass and distract the besiegers; and, at the distance of sixty or seventy miles from supports, Gen. Cannon remained in front of the whole Russian army until intelligence reached him that the garrison was in despair. The General, who had made his way so far, without tents or baggage, by extraordinary forced march threw himself (without receiving orders) into the fortress, and with his fresh troops occupied the celebrated work called Arab Tabia and Ylanli, where he found the gallant Captains Butler and Nasmyth, by their daring example, doing good service. He next took energetic measures for the defence of the fortress. On June 12 General Cannon entered Silistria; four days afterwards the investing army raised the siege, and in ten days all had retired: Omer Pacha hastening to thank General Cannon and his officers for these essential services. On July 7, 1854, the Turks crossed the Danube near Giurgevo, in the face of the Russian army, and, with the assistance of General Cannon and a few British officers, signally defeated the enemy, who soon after fled precipitately from the Principalities. General Cannon commanded the first division of the Ottoman troops embarked for the Crimea last winter to occupy Eupatoria, which place was much strengthened under his able directions; thus testing the true value of British officers with Turkish troops. General Cannon has received for his services in Spain the Commandership of the Order of Charles III. and St. Ferdinand and two medals; and from the Sultan the Order of the Medjidie and two gold medals; and Omer Pacha, in a despatch to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, testifies to General Cannon's services in contributing "greatly to exalt the honour of the Ottoman arms."

NEW CHURCH OF ST. SAVIOUR, WARWICK-ROAD.

THIS edifice, which was consecrated on Saturday last, is a very handsome addition to the church accommodation for the extensive parish of Paddington; or, rather, that portion known as "the estate of the Bishop of London," and intersected by Blomfield-road. The church is a large structure, built in what may be called the adapted Gothic style. Discarding the village church model, which has been followed unsuccessfully in several large London churches, the architect has dispensed with side-aisles, clerestory, columns, &c., and formed a hall or auditorium, with handsome open-timber roof and windows, the tracery of which is Second Pointed or Decorated, slightly inclining to flamboyant. Galleries surround the nave; and the organ stands in the tower, which opens into the church. The chancel is, more correctly, according to the ancient model; the roof, of



NEW CHURCH OF ST. SAVIOUR, WARWICK-ROAD, PADDINGTON.—THE CHANCEL.

wood, is painted azure, and powdered with gold stars, the beams being illuminated with flowing design. The east and side windows are good specimens of the skill of Messrs Gibbs, of the New-road.

The stained and painted glass is in compartments, comprising a series of subjects from the New Testament, with symbols, monograms, &c. There are two small windows on the north side—one bearing a figure of St. John, and the other Mary; two smaller windows light the south side, and have coats of arms within them. The reredos, by Mr. Farmer, is of Caen stone, richly carved, having columns of serpentine marble. In the centre, over the altar-table, is painted the Vesica, with the sacred monogram I. H. S., surrounded by imitation encaustic tiles, after the style of Minton's; on each side of this are scrolls, bearing texts: the back, round the same as the Vesica. On each side of these are the Credence Tables, on a gold ground. This completes the reredos. The altar is completed by two compartments on each side, bearing scrolls with texts from Scripture, and surrounded by tiles like the others; the front of the altar is also inlaid with tiles. The pulpit is a handsome piece of work, richly carved in oak, having a base of stone resting on dwarf columns of serpentine marble; a



COMMENCEMENT OF THE RESERVOIR, IN THE VALLEY OF VENAR, ISLAND OF SALSETTE.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

the corners, close to the junction of the wood with the stone, are small figures of the latter material. The pulpit, piers, and font (which, by the way, somewhat assimilate the pulpit), have been executed by Farmer, of the Westminster-bridge road.

Great credit is due to the architect, Mr. Thomas Little, of Northumberland-street, for the manner in which he has succeeded in uniting pleasing forms and correct details with what is really useful in a parish church, capable of containing 1700 persons. By far the greater part of the cost of this edifice has been defrayed by the Incumbent and his private friends. The Bishop of London, with his accustomed munificence, subscribed £500; while the parish of Paddington voted £2000, in consideration of 500 seats being free for the use of the poor. The east window is the gift of H. W. Schneider, Esq., Sussex-gardens, Hyde-park. The Incumbent is the Rev. T. Mersland Hopkins, M.A., of St. Peter's College, Cambridge, and formerly Curate of St. James's, Paddington.

The church was consecrated on Saturday last, April 12, by the Lord Bishop of Oxford. The prayers were read by the Incumbent, and a sermon preached by the Bishop, who took for his text Acts iv., v. 31.

COMMENCEMENT OF THE VEHAR WATERWORKS, BOMBAY.

THE town and island of Bombay, the population of which is estimated at about half a million, are so badly supplied with water, that when the annual rains are deficient in quantity, the place is subjected to all the horrors of drought. There are no rivers or lakes in the neighbourhood, and the wells are but an indifferent source, both in the quantity and quality of the water which they yield. The chief means of supply are the tanks and reservoirs, which are dependent chiefly on the surface drainage, with all its impurities. Hence all the woes of a water-famine are frequently impending over this thickly populated city and its suburbs. The last monsoon was an unusually scanty one—the fall of rain having been only about fifty inches, about twenty-five below the average. The result is that, at the date of this communication, though the inhabitants were husbanding their fast-fading stock like distressed mariners on a windless ocean, they had before them the certainty that in two months more, at least, they would be without water.

Formerly this wretched state of affairs as regards the future, it has been resolved to form a vast reservoir in the island of Salsette, now joined to that of Bombay by the railway viaduct. The valley of Kehar, enclosed in hills, is to be converted into a lake by means of embankments at its débouchure; and the water thus collected is to be conveyed into Bombay, a distance of some fifteen miles, through iron pipes.

The first public act of Lord Canning in the course of whose affairs he has been appointed to administer was the formal commencement of this great and important work, by "raising the first turf" on the site of one of the proposed embankments. The ceremony took place on Thursday, the 31st January, at half-past five in the evening. A special train conveyed a part of the company as near to the scene as the railway could carry them; and an excursion train landed a much larger body, including some hundreds of natives, at this point; thence, in carriages, on horseback, and on foot, the people found their way over the yet interesting scene.

The scene of operations (says the *Bombay Gazette*) was very picturesque. It was on the site of one of the future embankments, between two wooded hills at the entrance of the valley which is to form the bed of the proposed lake. The ground-plan of the dams had been cleared and distinctly marked, and the elevations were indicated by cords stretched across from hill to hill. The company was thus presented with a very complete idea of the works designed to convert a vale of nine square miles area into a sheet of water embosomed in romantic hills.

Tents had been pitched for the reception of the company, and into these it thronged on the arrival of Lord and Lady Canning, Lord Elphinstone, and their party, from Kenery. The Governor then opened the proceedings with a short speech, in which he described the necessity that existed for the formation of the proposed reservoir, and disposed of some of the objections to it. Lord Canning then addressed the assemblage, declaring the satisfaction which he felt in having the opportunity of assisting on such an occasion, and his trust that he might be enabled to carry forward those great designs for the improvement of India which have been formed and initiated by his illustrious predecessor. It may be worthy of remembrance hereafter that the first public address of Viscount Canning, Governor-General of India, in India, was delivered under a tent in a picturesque valley of the thinly-peopled island of Salsette.

After this the company left the tent, and Lord Canning with a veritable spade raised the first turf of the Vehar works, depositing the same in a real wheelbarrow. The satisfactory completion of this achievement was greeted with three hearty cheers from the congregated Britons, with various supplementary acclamations devoted to the success of the Vehar Waterworks, &c.

All was now over, and the company found its way back to the railway, and thence, without accident, we believe, by the different trains into Bombay, where the specials arrived at about a quarter to eight.

The Vehar Lake, when completed and full, will afford one of the most beautiful scenes that can be conceived in a part of India remarkable for the beauty of its scenery. With an area of close on nine square miles, its shores for a circuit of upwards of sixteen will be surrounded by hills, varying in elevation from five hundred to twelve hundred and fifty feet, of singular picturesqueness and beauty—rising in conical peaks, terminating occasionally in abrupt precipices, pierced with gloomy dells, scarred with rugged ravines; and everywhere covered with rich stores of varied vegetation—the tall palmyra, the spreading banyan, the giant teak, the bushy mango, with jungle underwood and creepers of every form and hue. The beholder is struck with astonishment when he is told that the villages with which the valley is sprinkled will at no great distance of time be forty feet under water, and that when the lake is full the loftiest palm-trees, if suffered to remain where they are, will scarcely show their tops above its surf.

We understand that among the replies received by the Horticultural Society, in answer to its appeal for assistance in enabling it to maintain its Garden, there is a most noble offer of assistance from Mr. H. Behrens, of Travemünde, from which the following are extracts:—"I have anxiously attended to all that has been published regarding the question of relinquishing the Garden of the Horticultural Society. Being a foreigner, and no Fellow of the Society, I am perfectly aware that I am as little entitled to meddle with the General's, and that I may perhaps risk a similar treatment. Nevertheless, the lively interest I take in everything concerning horticulture, and the thorough conviction that there is no institution in Europe the discontinuation of which would be in a higher degree deplorable for all friends of gardening than the London Horticultural Society, in its full and unabated efficiency, are too strong in me not to give them way, and make me bold to offer £100 on the same terms as will be fixed for other subscribers of funds to be collected for the conservation of the Chiswick Horticultural Gardens. I know very well that £100 is a trifling sum in England; but I am no man of large pecuniary means; and I think a good will does not fail to find a good place."

SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY.—Mr. Costa's "Eli" will be again performed at Exeter-hall, on the 25th inst., with the following powerful cast:—Madame Clara Novello, Mr. Sims Reeves, Herr Formés, and Madame Viardot Garcia, who will arrive from Paris, to sustain the character of *Samuel* at Birmingham.

THE FRENCH AT HOME IN THE CRIMEA.—The French have constructed an enormous *salle à danser* in the Balaklava valley, between the Fedioukine heights and Canrobert's Hill. It is in a convenient situation to be approached, near the Woronzoff road as it turns to ascend towards the position of the Sardinian encampments and Kamara. The opening ball is to take place to-night, and invitations have been issued to all the English ladies and English officers in the Crimea. The attendance of English ladies cannot be very numerous, but the officers will no doubt muster in numbers rather strong for an evening party anywhere. It is understood that in the first instance it was contemplated the ball would not take place until peace had been declared, when the invitations would have been limited to certain numbers of the allies, and Russian officers would have been invited to attend. Some Russians who were spoken to on the subject at the commencement of the armistice said that on such an occasion ladies would certainly come from Bagchisarai and Simferopol. The English furnished the timber and planks for the construction of the building, the French have provided all the other requisites. The ball is announced to be in honour of the infant Imperial Prince, son of Napoleon the Third. The invitations are issued in the names of the officers of the Corps de Reserve of the French army.—*Letter from the Camp, April 1.*

The great event in Jamaica lately has been the opening of the Industrial Palace and Museum, on the 10th ult. It was closed again temporarily on the 15th, after attracting thousands of visitors, and was to open again on the 24th, for the public.

A curious scientific discovery has been made in Ceará, a northern portion of Brazil; namely, an immense number of petrified fish, in a valley formed by a gorge in the Araripe mountains.

Mr. Brett, the contractor for the submarine electric cable, will commence the work of immersion next month, when the weather in the Mediterranean is generally very fine.

Castle Donington Church was the other day struck by lightning, which did much damage to the spire and to the body and interior fittings of the church.

NAVAL AND MILITARY INTELLIGENCE.

The mortar-ship *Seahorse*, 12, one of the old frigates fitted with a screw, has made a successful trial outside Plymouth Sound. Her engines, by Penn and Son, on the high-pressure of steam principle, are of 200-horse power. She attained a speed over nine knots, making 112 revolutions with 60lb.

The *San Fiorenzo*, a 50-gun vessel, having been in process of building for the last six years in Woolwich Dockyard, is at length condemned to have her timbers converted to the use of other vessels, in consequence of the ship in which she was intended to be built not allowing sufficient space to adapt her to the screw, brought into general use since the commencement of her construction.

So far as may be gleaned at present, in the absence of an official programme, the following movements of the fleet will take place at the review on the 23rd instant.—The fleet at Spithead will have been formed in two columns, flanked by the light steamers and screw gun-boats. The Queen is expected to arrive at eleven o'clock on that day, and return to town at five p.m. A general salute will be fired from the ships and batteries. Her Majesty, in the Royal yacht, will pass through the fleet, and take the lead towards the Nab-light vessel, where the fleet will pass the Royal yacht in two columns, and then return in the same order; after which several divisions of screw gun-boats will attack the screw floating batteries and a few liners, nominated for the occasion. The day will be wound up by a simultaneous attack of the gun-boats on Southsea Castle and along the beach. The garrison will repel the attack of the gun-boats.

The English fleet, composed of the frigates *Impérieuse*, *Euryalus*, *Pylades*, *Amphion*, and the corvettes *Falcon*, *Harriet*, *Cuckoo*, and *Firefly*, has passed the Belt on its return to England. There is not now a single English vessel in the Baltic.

At the laying of the foundation-stone of the Wellington College, by her Majesty, on Saturday, the 3rd of May, the whole of the troops then encamped at Aldershot, the Grenadier Guards, and two batteries of field artillery, under the command of his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, will take part in the ceremony. The pavilion erected for the Queen at the Chobham Camp will be used upon this occasion.

The Guards may be expected in London from the Crimea in the middle of May. A telegraphic message has been sent desiring them to hold themselves in readiness for embarkation immediately. They will leave Balaklava about the 26th of the present month, and their public entry into the metropolis may be expected about the 17th May, when a grand reception will be given them.

The dispatch of troops and ammunition to our North American Colonies is explained by the fact that during the war nearly all the gunpowder was withdrawn from Canada, and as many of the troops as could be spared. The movements of men and ammunition toward that province which are now in progress are simply the consequence of the necessity of replacing them, and indicate no hostile feeling towards the United States, or expectation of war in that quarter.

The officers of the various regiments quartered at Aldershot have subscribed and established a theatre near the Camp. The scenery, which is sixteen feet in height, has been painted by the principal scene-painter to Drury-lane Theatre. The male characters will be taken by officers and soldiers at the Camp, and the female by professionals whose services have been secured. The first performance will take place on Tuesday next.

DESTRUCTION OF PIRATE JUNKS IN CHINA.—Her Majesty's steamer *Barracouta*, Captain Fortescue, arrived here on Wednesday afternoon from Ningpo, which she left on Tuesday last. On her passage she encountered two large West-coast pirate junks, which she chased and ran ashore on the Volcano, when their crews landed and escaped among those rocky islets, Captain Fortescue deeming it not worth while to land his men in quest of the pirates. He sank the two large junks and some smaller ones, carrying six to eight guns each. The men on board are said to have been gaily dressed in blue silk, and any quantity of red turbans was discovered on board. Just prior to their being sighted they had captured a large trading junk, laden with rice, &c., and plundered it. The *Confucius* steamer took part in the attack, and rendered efficient aid in destroying the five junks. The steamer has brought up eleven men to Shanghai, taken out of another pirate junk off the Chusan group, who have been handed over to the Chinese authorities.—*North China Herald*, Jan. 20.

The disturbances that broke out in Valencia are now said to have had a Carlist and Socialist tendency.

The Customs officers at Malaga have captured an English smuggling schooner off that port, worth, with her cargo, 50,000 piasters. They have also seized a large quantity of smuggled goods in a steamer from the Levant.

MONETARY TRANSACTIONS OF THE WEEK.

(From our City Correspondent.)

THE last return of the Bank of England having shown a decrease of nearly £400,000 in the stock of bullion—it being reduced to £10,057,105—the Bull party has operated with considerable caution this week, and the dealings in Consols for money have been limited. The Stock Market has, therefore, been less active, but without leading to any material change in the quotations. With reference to the decrease above referred to, we may observe that for some period over £2,000,000 of the last Turkish loan remained in the Bank of England for the purpose of being disbursed by our Government in the purchase of arms, ammunition, &c., for Turkey. As the war is now over, any further balance here is not required; consequently, the sums placed to the credit of the Turkish Government have to be remitted to Constantinople. We believe that about £500,000 in gold was sent away last week, and that about £1,000,000—which will close the account—has yet to be shipped; hence an immediate increase in the supply of bullion in the Bank cannot be anticipated. These remarks show pretty clearly the reasons which have induced the Directors of the Bank of England to adhere to their present rates of discount.

There has been an active demand for money, at high rates; and we learn that some of the large discount-houses have given 5½ per cent for large sums on "call." In the Stock Exchange the current rate has been 6 per cent; and in Lombard-street the best bills have not been done under 5½ to 6½ per cent. Large supplies of gold are known to be on passage from Australia; and it is asserted—seeing that the balance of trade with the United States is still considerably in our favour—that we shall receive heavy remittances from America for some time. The imports this week have amounted to £24,000 from Belgium, £116,000 from the United States, £340,000 from Australia, and about £28,000 from other quarters. Large parcels of silver have been sold for shipment to India and China, though at a decline of 3d. per ounce for dollars, the last price being paid 60d.

National Stocks were rather flat on Monday, and prices had a downward tendency.—The Three per Cents for Transfer were done at 93½ to 93; Ditto, for the Account, 93½; The Reduced were 92 to 91½; the New Three per Cents, 93 to 92½; Bank Stock was 213½ to 212½; Long Annuities, 1880, marked 3-16; Ditto, 1885, 16½; India Stock, 229; Exchequer Bills (March), 4s. prem.; Ditto, June, 1s. dis.; Exchequer Bonds, both series, 93½. On Tuesday the following quotations were realised:—Bank Stock, 213 21½ 21¼; Three per Cents Reduced, 91½ 92 91½; Consols, 93 to 92½; New Three per Cents, 92½ to 92½; Five per Cents, 114; Long Annuities, 1880, 3½; Ditto, 1885, 16 15-16; Consols for Account, 93½; Exchequer Bills, 4s. prem. to 4s. dis.; Exchequer Bonds, 93½. The transactions on the following day were not so extensive, yet prices showed a disposition to advance.—The Three per Cents Reduced were 91½ 91½; Consols for Money, 92½ up to 93; Ditto for Account, 93½ 93½; New Three per Cents, 92½ 92½; Long Annuities, 1880, 3½; Ditto, 1885, 17; India Stock, 229; Exchequer Bills, 4s. dis. to 4s. prem.; Exchequer Bonds, 93½. Most public Securities were firm on Thursday, and prices were higher.—The Three per Cents for Money were 93 to 93½; and for the Account, 93½. The New Three per Cents realised 92½; and the Reduced, 91½ 92. Bank Stock, 212½ to 213½; India Stock, 230. The June Exchequer Bills were 4s. to 1s. discount; March Bills being 3s. dis. to par. It was asserted in the Exchange that, in the event of the Government coming forward for a new loan, it will not be in Consols.

The position of the Bank of France, as regards its stock of the precious metals, is rapidly improving; and the following statement shows the aggregate results of the last return compared with the previous month:—

Gold and Bullion	£10,723,200	Increase £2,165,400
Bills discounted	17,253,100	decrease 31,700
Notes in Circulation	24,651,500	decrease 112,900
Treasury Deposits	3,993,500	increase 559,700
Private Deposits	6,558,700	increase 1,515,500
Advances on French Government Securities ..	3,395,500	decrease 47,100
Advances on Railway Securities	1,937,400	increase 10,900

The dealings in most Foreign Bonds have been limited; yet, on the whole, prices have ruled firm. We have had transactions in Brazilian Five per Cents at 101½ ex div.; Ditto, New, 1843, 100; Buenos Ayres, 61; Chilean Three per Cents, 63½; Ditto, Six per Cents, 104 ex div.; Granada One-and-a-Half per Cents, New Active, 22; Mexican Three per Cents, 23; Peruvian Four-and-a-Half Cents, 75; Russian Four-and-a-Half per Cents, 94½; Ditto, Small, 95½; Spanish New Deferred, 24½; Ditto, Three per Cents, 45½; Turkish Six per Cents, 92½ ex div.; Ditto, Four per Cents (guaranteed), 101½; Ecuador Peruvian Dollar Bonds, Four-and-a-Half per Cents, 59; Ditto, New Consolidated, 11½; Ditto, Provisional Land Warrant, 5½; Sardinian Five per Cents, 95½; French Four-and-a-Half per Cents, 92½ 50c.; Ditto, Three per Cents, 73½; Australia Five per Cents, 85; Danish Five per Cents, 101½.

Joint-Stock Bank Shares have been rather heavy, as follows:—Australasia, 92 ex div.; Bank of London, 61; Bank of Egypt, 1½ prem.; City, 61; Commercial of London, 31½; London and Paris, 7½; National Provincial of England, 7½; New South Wales, 41; Ottoman Bank, 63; Union of Australia, 71; Ditto, New, 8; Western Bank of London, 27.

All Miscellaneous Securities have continued dull. Australian Agricultural have marked 22; Canada Company's Bonds, 144; Ditto, Government Six per Cents, 110½; Crystal Palace, 23; English and Australian Copper Smelting Company, 1½; London Docks, 99½; Mexican and South American, 6; Nether-

lands Land, 1½; North of Europe Steam, 13½; Peninsular and Oriental Steam, 66½; Van Diemen's Land, 15½.

A few transactions have taken place in Ashton and Oldham Canal Shares, at 145; Derby, 84; Oxford, 104; Regent's, 14½; Stafford and Worcester, 420; in Berlin Waterworks, at 63; Grand Junction, 72½; Southwark and Vauxhall, 59½; Kent, 80; in Hungerford-bridge Shares, at 8; Waterloo, New, £7, 26; and Vauxhall, 20½.

Mining Shares have commanded very little attention. Imperial Brazilian have realised 2½; Cobro Copper, 64½; Rhymney Iron, New, 3½; United Mexican, 4.

Railway Shares have changed hands slowly. The following are the official closing prices on Thursday:—

ORDINARY SHARES AND STOCKS.—Ambergate, Nottingham, and Boston, 4½; Chester and Holyhead, 16; Eastern Counties, 10; East Lancashire, 77½; Great Northern, 95; Ditto, A Stock, 80; Ditto, B Stock, 126; Great Western, 64½; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 89½; London and North Western, 191½; London and South-Western, 95½; London, Tilbury, and Southend (Barking Shares), 1½; Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire, 29½; Midland, 75; Norfolk, 53½; North British, 85½; North-Eastern—Berwick, 79; Ditto, Extension, 15½; Ditto, G. N. E. Purchase, 11½; Ditto, York, 56½; North Staffordshire, 11½; Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton, 28½; Scottish Central, 100; Shropshire, Union, 47; Stockton and Darlington, 36; Waterford and Kilkenny, 5.

LINES LEASED AT FIXED RENTALS.—Hull and Selby, 108; Shrewsbury and Hereford, 7½; Wilts and Somerset, 86.

PREFERENCE SHARES.—Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire, 117½; Norfolk, 8½; Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton, 8½; South Devon, 15½.

FOREIGN.—Antwerp and Rotterdam, 8½; Bombay, Baroda, and Central India, 6; Buffalo and Lake Huron, 7½; Dutch Rhenish, 12½; Eastern of France, 43; Grand Trunk of Canada, A issue, 15½; Great Central of France, 22½; Great Luxembourg Shares, 6½; Great Western of Canada, 26½ ex div.; Ditto, New, 9, ex div.; Madras, 16½, ex new; Northern of France, 43½; Paris and Lyons, 58½; Royal Danish, 20½; Sambre and Meuse, 14½; Western and North Western of France, 36½, ex div.

THE MARKETS.

CORN EXCHANGE. April 14.—To-day's market was moderately supplied with home-grown wheat, in which very little business was transacted, at a decline in the quotations realised on Monday last of 3s. per quarter. Foreign wheat—the show of which was tolerably good—moved off heavily, at full 2s. per quarter less money. Fine malting barley was very scarce, and 1s. per quarter dearer; all other kinds were quite as dear as last week. The malt trade was steady, at full quotations. Fine oats were held on former terms; but inferior parcels gave way 6d. to 1s. per quarter. Beans sold heavily, at 1s. per quarter less money. No change took place in the value of peas. The flour trade was heavy, and country marks were 2s. 1s. per sack lower.

April 16.—The amount of business doing in to-day's market was very moderate, at Monday's decline in the quotations.

English.—Wheat, Essex and Kent, red, 57s. to 65s.; ditto, white, 62s. to 73s.; Norfolk and Suffolk, red, 68s. to 68s.; rye, 40s. to 45s.; grinding barley, 35s. to 38s.; distilling, 33s. to 37s.; malt, ditto, 40s. to 45s.; Lincoln and Norfolk malt, 70s. to 75s.; brown ditto, 61s. to 68s.; Kingston and Warw. 35s. to 70s.; Chevallier, 70s. to 72s.; Yorkshire and Lincolnshire feed oats, 21s. to 23s.; potato ditto, 21s. to 23s.; Trough and Cork, black, 18s. to 21s.; ditto, white, 20s. to 25s.; tick beans, 31s. to 37s.; grey peas, 33s. to 36s.; maple, 34s. to 39s.; white, 42s. to 43s.; bolera, 41s. to 44s. per quarter. Down-made flour, 63s. to 65s.; Suffolk, 40s. to 52s.; Stockton and Yorkshire, 47s. to 52s. per 280 lbs. American flour, 37s. to 40s. per barrel.

Seeds.—Lined is still drooping in price, with a heavy demand. All agricultural seeds, as well as cakes, are dull.

Lined, English, crushing, 60s. to 62s.; Mediterranean, 57s. to 60s.; hempseed, 56s. to 57s. per quarter. Coriander, 22s. to 27s. per cwt. Brown mustard seed, 11s. to 22s.; white, 12s. to 15s.; fenes, 7s. 6d. to 8s. 6d. per cwt. English rapeseed, 10s. to 10s. 6d. per quarter. Lined cakes, English, 42½ to 43½; ditto, foreign, 41½ to 43½; rape cakes, 43½ to 47½, per ton. Canary, 6s. to 6s. 6d. per quarter.

Wheat.—The prices of wheat and bread in the metropolis are from 9½d. to 10d.; of household ditto, 8d. to 9d. per 4 lb. loaf.

Imperial Weekly Averages.—Wheat, 6s. 7d.; barley, 3s. 6d.; oats, 2s. 8d.; rye, 4s. 4d.; beans, 11s. 4d.; peas, 5s. 1d.; pulses, 5s. 1d.; potatoes, 3s. 6d.; turnips, 1s. 6d.; clover, 1s. 6d.; hay, 1s. 6d.; straw, 1s. 6d.; coals, 1s. 6d.; gas, 1s. 6d.; oil, 1s. 6d.; sugar, 1s. 6d.; tea, 1s. 6d.; coffee, 1s. 6d.; spices, 1s. 6d.; fruit, 1s. 6d.; vegetables, 1s. 6d.; wine, 1s. 6d.; spirits, 1s. 6d.; tobacco, 1s. 6d.; soap, 1s. 6d.; candles, 1s. 6d.; paper, 1s. 6d.; books, 1s. 6d.; stationery, 1s. 6d.; printing, 1s. 6d.; advertising, 1s. 6d.; legal, 1s. 6d.; medical, 1s. 6d.; veterinary, 1s. 6d.; dental, 1s. 6d.; engineering, 1s. 6d.; architecture, 1s. 6d.; agriculture, 1s. 6d.; commerce, 1s. 6d.; industry, 1s. 6d.; science, 1s. 6d.; art, 1s. 6d.; literature, 1s. 6d.; music, 1s. 6d.; drama, 1s. 6d.; religion, 1s. 6d.; philosophy, 1s. 6d.; history, 1s. 6d.; geography, 1s. 6d.; natural history, 1s. 6d.; physical science, 1s. 6d.; moral science, 1s. 6d.; political science, 1s. 6d.; social science, 1s. 6d.; 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THE ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA, LYCEUM.

THE Royal Italian Opera has begun its season in its temporary domicile, the Lyceum Theatre. We say temporary, because, whatever may be the future destination of this establishment its sojourn in its present abode must be of brief duration. It may do as a *pis-aller* under the present pressure of adverse circumstances; nothing better could be done, and what is done has been done admirably. But no amount of ingenuity or activity can ever convert the little Lyceum into a house befitting the Royal Italian Opera. The present season, be the theatre managed ever so well, must entail a heavy loss on the lessee; and of this Mr. Gye, who is as clear-sighted as he is enterprising, must be fully aware. But if he is enabled to keep his unequalled company together, and to prevent the substance of his vast establishment from being scattered to the winds, a great object will be gained, worthy of the cost at which it is purchased. Since Mr. Gye has obtained the occupation of the Lyceum Theatre he has done wonders in its renovation. The whole aspect of its interior has been changed, and those who have been most familiar with it, going into it now, would not know it again. There are two tiers of boxes, exactly like those of Covent Garden, on a diminished scale; below them, one each side, there are pit-boxes, and above them is the amphitheatre or gallery. The area of the pit has been all converted into stalls, with the exception of two or three rows at the back, which are all that remains of what is properly the pit. This arrangement, however necessary to make the theatre as remunerative as possible, will have the effect of giving it an exclusive character. The space allotted to the public is so very scanty that the audience will consist almost wholly of the fashionable occupants of the boxes and the stalls. This disadvantage, however (for it certainly is one), is, under present circumstances, more to be regretted than found fault with. The house is beautifully decorated: it is clean and comfortable; and nothing can be more cheerful and elegant than its whole appearance.

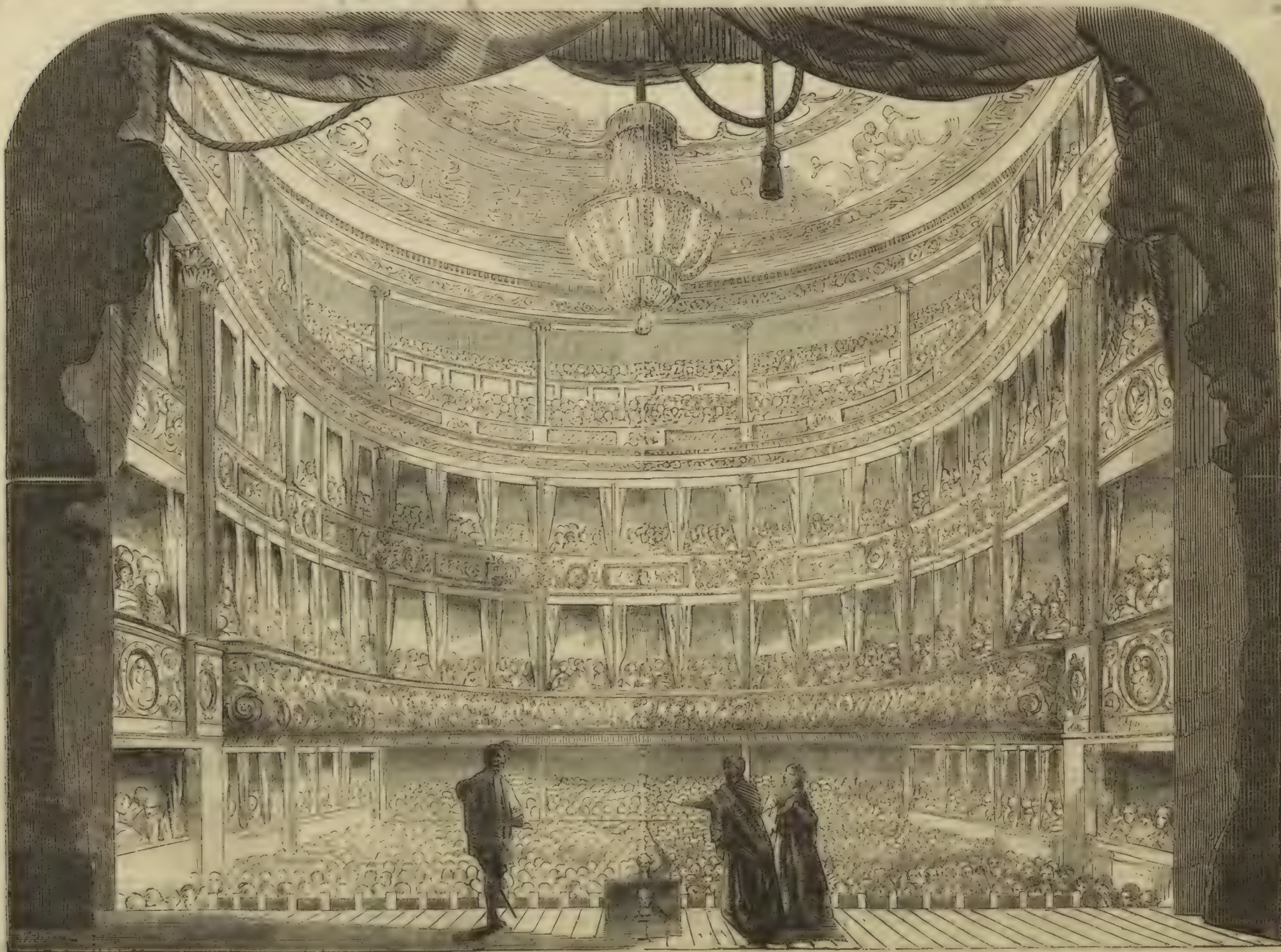
The opera was the "Trovatore," a piece of which enough has been already said by our contemporaries and ourselves. It is generally admitted to be one of Verdi's best operas as a musical composition; and, as a dramatic poem, one of his worst. In this last respect it is far inferior to the "Lombardi," "Ernani," or the "Focari," while it is superior to any of these in its music. It contains airs full of melody and expres-



THE IMPERIAL PRINCE IN HIS CRADLE.—FROM A PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN AT THE TUILERIES, BY M. RICHERBOURG.

sion, and masterly concerted pieces, especially in the last act; but its effect is weakened by its association with incidents which (though gloomy and horrid) rouse no interest, and with personages whose passions and feelings create little sympathy. The performance of Tuesday evening was similar to that of last season in all material respects save one. The gipsy *Azuena*, the real heroine of the piece, was personated by Mdlle. Didiée, instead of Madame Viardot. Mdlle. Didiée is a praiseworthy young singer with a contralto voice; she is, moreover, an improving performer, and exerted herself with greater effect than we had expected; but she fell far short of her gifted predecessor, whose absence is the more remarkable seeing that she is on the eve of arriving in London, where, we understand, she will spend the season. In the part of *Leonora*, Madame Jenny Ney even deepened the impression which she made last year. Her performance was at once a superb display of vocal power and a piece of beautiful and pathetic acting. This is the only part she has yet performed in London; her long illness and subsequent departure last year having prevented her appearing in any other; and we confess that we long to see her in some character of greater interest. Tamberlik (whose engagement is for a very short period) acted and sang, as *Manrico*, with his usual energy and effect; but his old defect of tremulousness was more apparent than last year. Graziani, as *Count de Luna*, had great success. His air, "Il balen del suo sorriso," called forth the only encore of the evening. We have only to add, that the orchestra was positively improved by the diminution of its numbers; and that the opera, notwithstanding the comparative smallness of the stage, was got up with a completeness and splendour worthy of the Royal Italian Opera.

Our Artist has sketched the auditory of the Theatre, showing the alterations. The whole of the front of the boxes has undergone complete regilding and painting; the grand tier of boxes has a white arabesque ornament upon a blue ground, the upper portion carrying a gilded wreath. The two upper tiers have a pale blue ground, with gilded ornaments. All the original boxes have been divided into three by a slender partition: they are lined with crimson paper, and fitted with crimson damask hangings. The small chandeliers which hung in front of the boxes have been removed, and a central chandelier of ample dimensions substituted: it has been supplied by Kirby, of Greek-street. The decoration of the house is by Ponsonby, of Piccadilly; executed under Mr. Gye's immediate superintendence.



THE ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA, LYCEUM.



H.R.H. PRINCE ALBERT'S HARRIERS.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

ZIGZAGS OF HUNTING.

PRINCE ALBERT'S HARRIERS.

THE other day we went down to Windsor to see the Prince's harriers, and had a very pleasant day. The South Western Rail made a very good hack up to the Castle station, where the noble Wyse of Eton had one of his hard-worked, useful hunters ready to trot us away to the meet at Salthill. This plan saved all trouble, although it is of course as ungenteel to hire a hunter as it is "slow" to own, without apology, that you have been "a hunting a hare." Nevertheless, there are some two hundred packs of harriers in England and Wales, and we dare not guess how many well-dressed gentlemen who save horse-box travelling expenses and risk when they get out of their own country by riding as well as they can at the rate of £2 2s. a day. If it were not so, there would be thin fields in some good counties.

As to harriers, the people who sneer at them are ludicrously ignorant of the history of modern foxhunting, which is altogether founded on the experience and maxims of harehunters. The two oldest foxhound packs in England—the Brocklesby and the Cheshire—were originally formed for harehunting. The best book ever written on hounds and hunting—a text-book to every master of hounds to this day—is by Beckford, who learned all he knew as master of a pack of harriers.

The great Meynell and Warwickshire Corbett both entered their young hounds to hare—a practice which cannot, however, be approved. The late Parson Froude, in North Devon—than whom a keener sportsman never hollowed to hounds, and the breeder of one of the best packs for showing sport ever seen—hunted hare, fox, deer, and even polecats, sooner than not keep his darlings doing something; and, while his hounds would puzzle out the faintest scent, there were among the leaders several that, with admirable dash, jumped every gate, disdainingly to creep. Some of this stock are still hunting on Exmoor. There are at present several very good M.F.H. who began with harehounds.

We are afraid that the intense pretentious snobbishness of the age has something to do with the mysterious manner in which many men, blushing, own that they have been out with harriers. In the first place, as a rule, harriers are slow; although there are days when, with a stout, well-fed, straight-running hare, the best men will have enough to do to keep their place in the field; over the dinner-table that is always an easy task; but in this fast, competitive age the man who can contrive to stick on a good horse can show in front without having the least idea of the meaning of hunting. To such, harriers afford no amusement. Then again, harrier packs are of all degrees, from the perfection of the Blackmoor Vale, the Brookside, and some Devon or Welsh packs with unpronounceable names, down to the little scratch packs of six or seven couple kept among jovial farmers in out-of-the-way places, or for the amusement of Sheffield cutlers running afoot. The same failing that makes a considerable class reverently worship an Alderman or a City Baronet until they can get on speaking terms with a Peer leads others to boast of foxhunting when the Brighton harriers are more than they can comfortably manage.

With good nerves, plenty of time, and a strong stud, to the true sportsman there can be nothing better than a season with a first-rate pack of foxhounds in a fine scent-holding country. But, after hard town-work and grey hairs have told on the pulse, a couple of hours a week on a thirty-pound hack may be made pleasant and profitable, with a cry of little currant-jelly dogs. Air, exercise, music, and occupation may be all combined.

That Prince Albert should never have taken to the Royal stag-hounds is not at all surprising. It requires to be "to the manner born" to endure the vast jostling, shouting, thrusting mob of gentlemen and horse-dealers, "legs" and horse-breakers, that whirl away after the uncarted deer. Without the revival of the old Court etiquette, which forbade any one to ride before Royalty, his Royal Highness might have been ridden down by some ambitious butcher or experimental cockney horseman on a runaway. If the etiquette of the time of George III. had been revived, then only Leech could have done justice to the appearance of the field, following impatiently at a respectful distance—not the stag, as they do now very often, or the hounds, as they ought to do—but the Prince's horse's tail.

Prince Albert's harriers are in the strictest sense of the term a private pack, kept by his Royal Highness for his own amusement, under the management of Colonel Hood. The meets are not advertised. The fields consist, in addition to the Royal and official party from the Castle, of a few neighbouring gentlemen and farmers, the hunting establishment of a huntsman and one whip, both splendidly mounted, and a boy on foot—at least we presume that he is attached to the hunt, as he wears the livery, and otherwise would never have put on a pair of kerseymere bags to scramble through hedges, instead of the time-honoured leather gallygaskins of the pedestrian harehunter. The costume of the hunt is a very dark green cloth coat, made double-breasted, with the Prince's gilt button, brown cords, and velvet cap.

On the day we were out the huntsman rode Malakoff, the horse which was sold for £360 at Sir Richard Sutton's sale. The hounds were about fifteen couple, of medium size, with considerable variety of true colours, inclining to the foxhound stamp, yet very honest hunters. On each run the lead was taken by a hound of peculiar and uncommon marking—black and tan, but the tan so far spreading that the black was reduced to merely a saddle. We remember seeing a Welsh pack of true long-eared harriers of nearly the same colour.

The day was rather too bright, perhaps, for the scent to lie well; but there was the better opportunity for seeing the hounds work, which they did most admirably, without any assistance. It is one of the advantages of a pack like this that no one presumes to interfere and do the business of either the huntsman or hounds. The first hare was found on land apparently recently inclosed near Eton; but, after two hours' perseverance, it was impossible to make anything of the scent over ploughed land.

We then crossed the railway into some fields, partly in grass, divided by broad ditches full of water, with plenty of willow stumps on the banks, and partly arable on higher, sloping ground, divided by fair growing fences into large square inclosures. Here we soon found a stout hare that gave us an opportunity of seeing and admiring the qualities of the pack. After the first short burst there was a quarter of an hour of slow hunting, when the hounds, left entirely to themselves, did their work beautifully. At length, as the sun went behind clouds, the scent improved; the hounds got on good terms with puss, and rattled away at a pace, and over a line of big fields and undeniable fences, that soon found out the slows and the nags that dared not face shining water. Short checks of a few minutes gave puss a short respite; then followed a full cry, and soon a view. Over a score of big fields the pack raced within a dozen yards of puss's scent, without gaining a yard, the black-tanned leading hound almost coursing his game; but this was too fast to last; and, just as we were squaring our shoulders and settling down to take a very uncompromising hedge with evident signs of a broad ditch of running water on the other side, the hounds threw up their heads; poor puss had shuffled through the fence into the brook, and sunk like a stone.

We must, at the risk of being considered spoony, own that there is something painful about the helpless finish with a hare. A fox dies snarling and fighting; but one often wishes the hare to get away. The hounds and horses of our Illustration, from the pen of Mr. Harrison Weir, were, by the kindness of Colonel Hood, studied at leisure at the kennels.

We may loyally venture to hope that before many years pass by we may see the Prince of Wales and his Royal brothers following their own pack of foxhounds in Windsor Forest, drowning the inevitable cares of State in a hearty, healthy, manly, and truly English sport.

THE FUSIONISTS AND THE ENGLISH ALLIANCE.—The *Assemblée Nationale* contains an article intimating the conditions on which the fusionists could approve the alliance of France and England:—"If the alliance of England obliges us to tolerate a permanent state of revolution and anarchy in Spain, we are not for the English alliance. If France will be compelled, in order to remain the ally of England, to permit revolution to introduce itself into Italy, to overthrow the kingdom of the Two Sicilies—to plant itself in Palermo—to menace the Sovereign Pontiff in Rome—then we are not in favour of the English alliance. If in Switzerland the oppression of honest folk—the despotism of the multitude—anarchy in the heart of power, are the conditions of the English alliance, we find that at that price it is too dear. But give us, instead of revolutionary England abroad, the old and loyal England of the past, conservative abroad as at home, armed for the defence of right and the maintenance of principles on which repose European order, then will the English alliance have no more zealous partisans, no more ardent defenders than ourselves."

A FEW WORDS ABOUT OMNIBUSES AND THE LONDON GENERAL OMNIBUS COMPANY.

As a large majority of the citizens of London undoubtedly prefer the vehicular to the pedestrian mode of locomotion, they may be fairly supposed to entertain some curiosity respecting the details of a system which undertakes to gratify their migratory propensities to the very utmost. We are so much accustomed in this most practical of all possible countries to sing the praises of commercial competition, that it requires some moral courage to demand public applause in favour of an avowed monopoly. And yet, as the exception is said to prove the rule, it should not be subject of special wonder that circumstances may combine to justify an occasional doubt as to the correctness of the national theory. It has, indeed, become almost a proverbial remark that "they manage such and such things better in France;" and this is usually in reference to matters that seem peculiarly open to competition. For instance, no one who has ever travelled in a Paris omnibus can question its superiority to the narrow, low-roofed, ill-ventilated, and over-crowded conveyance which constitutes the principal nuisance in the streets of London. The time was, and at no remote date, when our "lively neighbours" were subjected to the same inconveniences that are now grumblingly endured in our own metropolis. The evil at length attracted the attention of M. Foucauld, who directed his great administrative ability to the improvement of the people's vehicle. His task was the more easy that he succeeded in obtaining the intervention of the Government. An absolute decree went forth, competition ceased, an amalgamation was effected, and passengers were made comfortable in spite of the mute protest of Liberty.

Encouraged by his success, M. Foucauld resolved to do as much for the Londoners as he had achieved for his own countrymen. He could expect no assistance from Government. He, therefore, boldly appealed to the common sense of the antagonistic proprietors; and, wonderful to relate, they listened to his appeal without prejudice or impatience.

The inconveniences of the English system were no notorious that no one was found to argue in their defence and recommend their perpetuation. An amalgamated Company was accordingly formed, which was joined by several of the most influential omnibus proprietors. Terms were speedily arranged for the transfer of upwards of six hundred carriages, with their "times," or goodwill, to the new Company. As the total number of omnibuses plying in London, and its environs, is stated at 810, it will be seen that two-thirds of the entire traffic was nearly to change hands. Owing, however, to the pressure on the Money Market, it was found necessary to postpone for a time the purchase of so great a number, and a commencement was made on a much smaller scale. At present about 430 have been taken up, though not all at work. Within three months of its opening-day the Company has so far extended its operations that it employs fully 1800 men and 5000 horses. Each carriage costs, on an average, £110; and it is worked by ten horses, valued at £20 a head. Six years is considered a fair period of servitude for the poor animal, during which time he seldom fails to perform his daily task of twelve miles; so that in six years a pair of horses accomplish a feat equal to drawing an omnibus round the meridian of the globe. The daily allowance of each consists of 15lb. of oats, 3lb. of beans, 11lb. of hay, and 5lb. of straw. The stables hold from fifty to one hundred horses, and are conveniently scattered over the metropolis.

To every omnibus there is a driver and a conductor, working fourteen hours per diem, and earning respectively 5s. 6d. and 4s. a day. When the Company shall attain its full development, it is in contemplation to establish provident institutions for the benefit of the men, in case of sickness, accident, or superannuation. By that time, it is expected, the working staff will not fall short of 3000 persons, a number that will afford a firm basis for a fund by which retiring pensions and temporary allowances will be provided. This desirable consummation must be the work of time; but already great progress is being made in carrying out the objects of the Company, as may be seen by a comparison of three weeks' returns at monthly intervals:—

Week ending.	Omnibuses at Work.	Traffic Returns.	Miles Ran.
2nd Feb. ...	241 ...	£4239 17 4 ...	...
1st March ...	324 ...	5822 19 0 ...	118,118½
29th do. ...	384 ...	7141 13 11 ...	144,778½

Perhaps the most important, certainly the most novel, feature in this scheme is the proposed introduction of the correspondence system, by which a single payment will entitle a passenger to be carried from one extremity to another of this vast metropolis. The Whitechapel butcher-boy may then ride for 4d. to Hampstead, Richmond, or Clapham; nor need he tremble at the prospect of an arbitrary increase to the expenses of his trip during the pleasant months of summer. But some delay in carrying out this improvement is inevitable, owing to the immense extent to be traversed. The leading thoroughfares alone exceed a straight line of fifteen hundred miles, or five times the length of the distance possible in Paris.

Another point to which much consideration has been devoted is the improvement of the carriages. We all know, by sad experience, the discomforts attendant on a ride in a "bus. The crushing of hats, the trampling upon toes, the poking in the eye or ribs as the clumsy gentleman or timid lady flounders into the narrow van. Nor does the adventurous youth who climbs, hand over hand, to a seat on the knife-board fail to repent of his rash audacity, when at each spasmodic jerk he is flung upon his right shoulder or his left. All this is to be changed. The Company are about to start several new carriages of various designs to be submitted to the decision of the public. They will also introduce a few similar to those employed in Glasgow and Manchester, though their great weight is much against them, as necessitating the draught of three horses; and a "unicorn" in the crowded streets of London is quite as troublesome as his caricature is ridiculous when grimacing at the British Lion across the Royal crown; and three horses abreast would be still worse. A prize, indeed, was offered for the design of a carriage that should combine roominess and ventilation with lightness of construction; but this is still a desideratum; none of the plans handed in coming up to the required point of excellence.

There is yet one other point—the impertinence, or rather the insolence, of conductors has passed into a proverb. To remedy this the new Company proposes to introduce wounded soldiers for that distinguished post. The unprotected female need, therefore, be no longer a strong-minded individual to travel per 'bus; and even anxious parents will henceforth hazard their fond pledges of mutual affection without disagreeable associations connected with chimneysweeps or dealers in Norfolk sausages.

SNOW-SHOE RACES IN CANADA WEST.—These subscription races came off on the 20th of February, at Kingston, in the New Park, which slopes towards the river St. Lawrence and Lake Ontario. The weather was highly propitious, and the snow in the park averaged from two to three feet, and presented a very level surface over the entire course. The most keenly-contested sport was the hurdle-race.

It is estimated that if a steam-packet communication could be established between this country and Australia, by which such communication could be effected in forty-four or forty-five days, that £100,000 a year would be saved in interest of money on Australian gold sent to England.

EPITOME OF NEWS—FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC.

His Royal Highness Prince Albert will, it is said, pay a short visit to Paris in the course of the summer. The object of the Prince Consort's visit will be to represent her Majesty at the baptism of the Imperial Prince.

A paragraph has been going the rounds respecting "a grand celebration of the peace" in Hyde-park, on her Majesty's birthday. There is no foundation whatever for the statement.

The 9th of June is the day fixed for the baptism of the Imperial Prince. The programme of the baptism of the King of Rome will be adopted for this occasion. The ceremony will take place in Notre Dame.

His Imperial Highness Prince Jerome Napoleon, having recovered from the malady with which he was attacked, went out on Sunday last for his first airing, to make a visit to their Imperial Majesties the Emperor and Empress, and to the Prince Imperial.

The Earl of Clarendon intended to take his departure from Paris for London to-day (Saturday), accompanied by the Countess of Clarendon.

The marriage of the Princess Louise of Prussia with the Prince Regent of Baden is to take place on the 11th of June, the wedding-day of her parents.

Don Ferdinand of Portugal is expected in Belgium to arrange a marriage between his son, Don Pedro V., the reigning Sovereign, and the Princess Charlotte of Belgium.

There has been some gossip in the papers about a matrimonial connection between the Royal family of Naples and the Ducal family of Tuscany. The rumour is without foundation. In fact, the eldest daughter of the Grand Duke is only twelve years of age.

The Earl of Coventry and Lord Skelmersdale have commenced their studies at the University of Oxford. Both noblemen made their first appearance at Christ Church, to which College they belong, for the purpose of keeping term, a few days since.

The Duke de Nemours has gone to Turin with the Prince of Saxe-Coburg. The Count de Chambord, who had proceeded from Venice to Parma to attend the anniversary funeral ceremony of the tragical death of Charles III. of Bourbon, left his sister's capital on the following day. After visiting his aunt, the Countess of Neully, at Nervi, he went to Genoa.

General Williams will be honoured with the mission to arrange the Asiatic frontier.

The *Pays* says that King Otho is expected to make a visit to Western Europe this spring.

A grand reception at Court took place at St. Petersburg on the 6th, being the fête of the Annunciation of the Virgin, according to the Russian calendar. A "Te Deum" has been sung for the peace concluded between the belligerent Powers.

Sir James Hudson, the British Ambassador, is now at Genoa. He has obtained from the King the use of the Falcone theatre for a few nights, and is giving English theatrical representations.

The fleet being fitted out at Cronstadt for the conveyance of the Emperor to England and France turns out to be a flotilla to conduct the Empress-Mother to Stettin, on her way to visit her family in Berlin. It is believed that she will return to be present at the coronation solemnities in Moscow, and repair again to Palermo, where she will spend the winter.

Lord and Lady Ely have arrived at Brussels from Paris, on their way to the Hague. Her Ladyship added to the knot of distinguished and brilliant Englishwomen who attended the Royal ball last week.

Sir Allan McNab, who has suffered severely from gout for a long time past, has virtually retired from the Premiership of the Canadian Cabinet, and is succeeded by Hon. John A. Macdonald, Attorney-General.

The Marquis de Villamarina, Minister of Piedmont at Paris, gave a grand dinner on the 10th inst., at which the Countess of Montijo, the Duchess of Alba, M.M. Troplong and Barouche, Count Orloff, and Baron de Brunnow were present.

It is expected that the ratification of the Treaty of the 30th ult., by the Sultan, will be sent off from Constantinople to Paris by a steamer, which would leave on the 16th. It is therefore calculated that it will reach Paris between the 26th and the 30th inst.

The Queen of Spain has presented Ronconi with a valuable crown of gold representing leaves of laurel, and ornamented with brilliants; the directors of the Circo have also presented him with a crown in silver, with their names, four in number, engraved on it.

The health of the Bishop of Norwich is now so far re-established that his Lordship has resumed the active duties of his diocese, which his severe and continued indisposition compelled him to relinquish.

The *Civiltà Cattolica*, enlarging upon the friendly disposition which the Emperor Alexander II. manifests in favour of the Roman Catholics of his empire, announces that M. de Kisseleff, Russian Minister at Rome, will be charged to negotiate a new Concordat upon more liberal bases than that which was granted some years ago.

The medal sent over by the French Emperor to the English soldiers for valiant service in the Crimea, is not, like our medals, to be bestowed on all who took part in the campaign. It is the ordinary *médaille militaire*—a decoration much prized in the French army, and second only to the Legion of Honour.

A subscription has been entered into by the British residents of Hamburg, for the purpose of presenting Miss Nightingale with a *souvenir*, expressive of their admiration of her noble and disinterested conduct in the East.

The Geographical Society at Paris has awarded its prize for the most important discovery during the last year to Dr. Heinrich Barth. The next prize of a golden medal was adjudged to Mr. G. Squier, of the United States, for his Central American researches.

The Right Hon. William Keogh has been sworn in before the Lord Chancellor as one of her Majesty's Justices for the Court of Common Pleas. He is the youngest judge who ever sat on the bench in Ireland. Richard Charles McNevin, Esq., has been appointed his registrar.

Shortly after the death of Herr von Hinkeldey his family returned to the Russian Minister in Berlin an order richly set with diamonds, that the late Emperor Nicholas had presented to the deceased. Very recently, however, the Russian Minister received instructions to restore it to the family in the name of the present Emperor.

M. de Munckausen, the second of the late M. de Hinkeldey in the fatal duel, has resumed his functions at the Ministry of the Interior. M. de Rochou, it is stated, is preparing a statement in justification of his conduct.

A monument to William Roscoe, the historian, has been erected in the Unitarian Chapel, Renshaw-street, Liverpool, where all that was mortal of Roscoe was interred. It consists of a fine bust of the historian placed in a niche of grey marble.

A Berlin tailor, a lively speculator, exhibits a full Paris Congress costume for fashionable attraction. It consists of an Orloff great coat, a Walewski evening frock, a Cavour waistcoat; Clarendon small-clothes, and Mantouille cravat; with Auli Pachia shirt front, and a Buol chapeau.

The Government diver has discovered in Ramozze the hull of a ship, supposed to be the frigate *Amphion*, blown up on the 22nd of September, 1798. Some efforts are to be made to raise portions of the wreck.

The *Montreal Herald* computes the number of runaway slaves in Canada as high as 30,000, which were worth to the States from which they escaped 24,000,000 dollars. It is said that the escapes into Canada averaged twenty per day.

A board of directors has been nominated to form a company for the construction of a railroad from Vera Cruz to Mexico, by the plains of Apam and Puebla.

Gas was first introduced into the houses in Melbourne on the 1st of January. There were great rejoicings on the occasion.

In consequence of the unfavourable account from Paraguay relative to the manner in which emigrants are there treated, the French Government has suspended, until further orders, the granting of passports for that country.

Wall and Carr, the two men left at Liverpool to be hanged for the murder of a seaman by strangulation, have had their sentence commuted to transportation for life.

A grand agricultural exhibition will take place at Nicolaieff in May, 1857, to which will be admitted the productions of the governments of Kherson, Ekaterinoslav, the Taurida, and the province of Bessarabia. This will be the first time an exhibition has ever taken place on so large a scale, as it will comprise the productions of all Southern Russia.

Advices from the Sandwich Islands state that the lava stream from the great volcano was slowly winding towards Hilo, which it was feared it must eventually overwhelm.

An Act of Parliament was passed on Monday, by which the office of the Poor-law Secretary in Ireland is abolished.

Several batteries of artillery, just returned from the Crimea, were received in triumph on Sunday last at Strasburg, to which garrison they had been sent. It is said that 20,000 citizens marched a mile out of the town to meet the troops.

The Cunard steamer *Persia* has performed the most rapid easterly passage on record. The length of her run has been nine days twelve hours—a surmounting feat, considering the condition of the Atlantic at present.

AMMURABILLA, LITERARY, ANTIQUARIAN, SCIENTIFIC, AND ARTISTIC.

"A little chink may let in much light."—OLD PROVERB.

LETTERS OF SIR WALTER RALEIGH.

In the Excerpta from the Burleigh Papers in the British Museum, Add MSS. 6177-6178, are several extremely interesting letters from and concerning Sir Walter Raleigh. Many of these, though of historical importance, have never, we believe, been printed; and those which have, for the most part only in works accessible to the scholar and antiquarian.

The following, dated May 3rd, 1592, and addressed to Sir Robert Cecil, must have been written only a day or two before Raleigh set sail on his memorable expedition against the Spanish Plate fleet. In this design he had been lavished his means to fit out a suitable force, and had left no efforts untried to persuade his friends to join in the undertaking. The results, however, as History shows, were, like those of too many of this great man's enterprises, sadly disproportioned to the endeavours used and the expectations excited.

"Sir W. Raleigh to Sir Ro. Cecil, Privy Counsellor." 1592, May 3.

"Sir,—May it please you to vouchsafe to send for Mr. Burroughs the controller of the Admiralty, and to give charge unto him to repair to Blackwall and to Ratcliffe to command away those flibbets [fly-boats] and other ships that remaine, who can best informe you of the possibility of these things. I am not able to leve to row up and down every tyde from Gravend to London, and he y^e lies here at Rackleif can easily Judge when the rest and how the rest of the ships may sale down. I am cum up agayne as far as Blackwall and would attend you if I knew how or wher; the names of those men y^e refuse to serve her Maistye, I have delivered to pope Marshall of the Admiralty, the rest shall also be sent him: the names of the ships remaininge I will send to Mr. Burroughs use. I humbly pray you to speake withall so beeing more greved than ever I was in anything of this world for this cross weather I humbly take my leave, from Blackwall ready to go down again this tyde.

"Your honors to do yow service,

"The 3rd of May.

"W. RALEIGH."

A few weeks after Sir Walter Raleigh was recalled from leading this expedition he fell under the displeasure of the Queen on account of certain love passages between him and the beautiful Elizabeth Throgmorton, one of the Maids of Honour. For this offence he was incarcerated for eight weeks in the Tower. Upon his liberation he married Elizabeth Throgmorton, and retired, to indulge his genius for ornamental gardening, to his Castle of Sherburne, in Dorsetshire. It was probably from this place that Lady Raleigh addressed the subjoined letter to Sir Robert Cecil.

"Lady Raleigh to Sir Robert Cecil, 1593, Feb.

"Sur,—I reserved your tabells of no less rare device than the sentans within was comfortable, if faith wear broken with me I was yett far away, but I fear that my Mistress if all harts were opene, and all desiers known, might without so great curiositie of deciphering read her owne desteni in a playne alphabet, but wee are bothe great beleviers, and ther in wee flatter ourselves, and nurishe our owne mindes with what we would; now sur for the rest, I hope for my sake you will rather draw fur water towards the Est then heape byme forward toward the soon sett, if ani respecke to me, or love to him be not forgotten; but everi monthe hathe his flower and everi season his contentment and you great Counsellars are so full of new counells as you ar steddil in nothing, but wee poore soules that have bought sorrow at a high price, desiar & can be pleased with the same misforten wee hold, ferring alterations will but multiply miseri of wich wee have allredi felte sufficient. I knoo only your parswadins ar of ecke with him and hild as orrekeles tied to them by love, therfor I humbelle besuch you rather stay him than further him; by the wich you shall bind me for ever, as yet you have ever geveng me caus.—As chee that honnereth you most,

"E. RALEIGH."

NOTES.

When cigars are smok'd, and 'bacoco' spent,
Then hemp it is most excellent.

LILLY, in the history of his life and times, says that the Rev. W. Bredon, Vicar of Thornton, in Buckinghamshire, was so fond of smoking, that when he had no tobacco he cut the church bell-ropes and smoked them. If the bells had been made of a smokable material, no doubt this inveterate fumigator would have smoked them also.

DID JEFFREY AND WORDSWORTH EVER MEET?—This question was put to a relative of Mr. Wordsworth in 1850, and his answer (which I have just met with among some old letters) seems worthy of preservation:—"It gives me great pleasure to be able to answer your question at once from personal recollection. Mr. Wordsworth and Lord Jeffrey did meet. They met in London at the house of Sir James Mackintosh, in Great Cumberland-street; where, at an evening party, and, at Lord J.'s request, the critic was introduced to the poet by Sir James. This was in June 1828. Mr. Wordsworth, with his wife and daughter, was then on a visit at my house in Bryanston-street; and Sir James and Mr. W., being then such near neighbours, saw a great deal of each other. But I do not think there was any personal intercourse between Jeffrey and Wordsworth beyond that formal presentation to each other. An odd circumstance occurred lately. An American clergyman, a Mr. R—, had a letter of introduction to the poet at Rydal, who afterwards told me they had found him an eccentric entertaining person. A few days afterwards Mr. Wordsworth received a letter from one of a committee of a Mechanics' Institute (at Manchester, I think) where this clergyman had been lecturing, and in his lecture he gave an account of his visit to Mr. W., his conversation with him, and, among other things, of Mr. Wordsworth having called Lord Jeffrey a puppy; and this, as it unluckily happened, but two or three days before Lord Jeffrey's death. Now, had Mr. W. chosen to let the world know that he thought Lord J. a puppy, he certainly would not have done so by deputy, and least of all through a stranger. He could not dream of the possibility of a clergyman's reporting in public a casual remark dropped at his own fireside. But he was not at all annoyed at it on his own account. He said he was only sorry for the foolish man who took so unusual a liberty, and that it was a pity it should have happened about the time of Lord Jeffrey's decease.—L.

THE SWAN AS AN EMBLEM IN ART.—Venus, in classic art, is represented as drawn in a car by swans (Ovid Met. x. 717. Hor. Carm. iii. 23 v. 13. Stat. Sylv. iii. 4, v. 22); or as seated on the back of a swan about to take flight (Combe, Num. Vet. Pop. et Urb. tab. xiv., fig. 9. Middleton, Antiquitatis Eruditae Monumenta. tab. xv. Description of the Ancient Terracotta in the Brit. Museum, p. 36.) The last position may indicate the transitory nature of beauty or pleasure. The swan is usually represented in motion, indicating that something beautiful or pleasant was about to follow; for example, the swan in the act of rising to drink out of the tazza might indicate the pleasure which drinking out of it would give—that is, Venus follows the swan. But a poetical feeling of art must exist if these beautiful mythic emblems are to be interpreted in the allegorical sense of antiquity. Their expository must even transcend Winckelmann, if not in the knowledge of art, at least in the poetico-allegorical principles of its interpretation. The name of owner or artist was sometimes indicated by these emblems, and in this case Kükvovs εὐολγος might be meant (Winckelmann, Versuch einer Allegorie, c. v., pp. 167-180). In the Townley Gallery, room 2, No. 9, is a marble vase with two upright double handles springing from the necks of swans.—T. J. BUCKTON, Lichfield.

* There is an old story well known in Dorsetshire respecting this castle, to the effect that Osmund, one of William the Conqueror's Knights, who had been rewarded, among other possessions, with the Castle and Barony of Sherburn, in the decline of his life resigned his temporal honours and resolved to dedicate himself to religion. In pursuance of this object he obtained the Bishopric of Sarum, and gave Sherburn, with certain lands to the Bishopric, annexing to the gift the following curse:—"That whosoever should take those lands from the Bishopric, or diminish them in great or small, should be accursed not only in this world but in the world to come, unless in his lifetime he made restitution thereof." Upon his death, the castle and lands were possessed by the next Bishop, Roger Niger, who was dispossessed of them by King Stephen; after Stephen, they came into the hands of the Montagues, all of whom, it is pretended, so long as they held, were subjected to grievous disasters, inasmuch that the male line became altogether extinct. About two hundred years from this time the lands again reverted to the Church; but in the reign of Edward VI. the Castle of Sherburn was conveyed by the then Bishop of Sarum to the Duke of Somerset, who lost his head on Tower-hill. King Edward then gave the lands to Sir John Horsley, but the same Bishop alleging that he had conveyed them to the Duke under menaces and threats, they were decreed again to the Bishopric, with which they remained until the time of Sir Walter Raleigh, who, not having the fear of the ancient curse before his eyes, obtained them from the Crown. It was to expiate this offence we are to suppose that he too ultimately lost his life. In allusion to this idle superstition Sir John Harrington tells gravely how it happened one day that Sir Walter, riding past between Plymouth and the Court, "this castle being right in the way, he cast such an eye upon it as Ahab did upon Naboth's vineyard; and once away the rest being talking of it (of the comicomicians on the place, and of the great strength of the seat, and how easily it might be got from the Bishopric, suddenly over and over came his horse, that his very face (which was then thought a very good one) plowed up the earth where he fell. This fall was ominous, and I make no question himself was apt to construe it so."—Brief View of the State of the Church of England, p. 88.

† Oracles.

QUERIES.

SODOR AND MAN.—I should feel much obliged if you could enlighten me as to the meaning of the word "Sodor" in connection with the Isle of Man. The "Bishop of Sodor and Man" is a phrase we are all accustomed to; but where the former is situated, and why it has the first place in connection with Man, I have never been able to learn.—E. Q. V.

[The Bishopric of Man (established by St. Patrick, A.D. 400) formerly comprised the twenty-two Hebrides Islands, which were called "Insule Sodorenses." They were subsequently detached, but the title Sodor and Man was retained. There is a small island, formerly called Holm, now Peel, which has also borne the name Sodor, that is still within the diocese of Man. It is within a musket-shot of the Isle of Man. In a grant made by an Earl of Derby to a Bishop of Man in 1505, the Earl makes over "Ecclesiam Cathedralē sancti Germani in Holm, SODER, vel Pele vocatam." The word Sodor is probably derived from the Saxon sud, or south—meaning south, because the Hebrides were the southernmost islands met with by the northern marauders, who had to pass round the north of Scotland. In the Swedish language SODER was south.]

SAFFRON WALDEN.—Can any of your correspondents inform me of the existence of any notice or tradition of Saffron Walden in Essex having been originally a Celtic colony? The learned Adelung, in his "Mithridates, or General Philology," gives a specimen of the dialect of Walden in Essex; "whose inhabitants," he adds, "are undoubtedly a Gaelic colony." The language of the specimen, varying somewhat in orthography, is almost identical with that of the Highlands.—FORDINGTON.

BY HOOK OR BY CROOK.—What is the Origin of this Saying?—J. HOULTON.

[A story has long been current that the saying took its origin from two Judges in the time of Charles I., one named Hook and the other Crook; but this is a vulgar error. The expression occurs nearly a century earlier in the works of Spenser, and before that in the writings of Archbishop Cranmer. It is nothing more than a facetious mode of expression; as we say one will pay a man "in meal or in malt," &c.]

LORD PEMBROKE'S PORT WINE.—Can any of your readers give to the public the receipt for the above, which was mentioned a few days since by Lord Palmerston? Perhaps his Lordship will favour.—A HOUSE-KEEPER!

ANSWERS.

THE CARTHAGINIAN WOMEN.—Rollin, who gives the story of the Carthaginian women cutting off their hair to make ropes, refers to Strabo and Appian. On consulting these, I find as follows:—Strabo, lib. xvii., p. 833: Τρίχας δὲ τοῖς καταπέλταις αἱ θεράπωναι παρείχον ("Their handmaidens gave their hair for the catapults"). Appian de bellis Punicis, p. 55: Καὶ καταπέλταις ὅσους διηγεῖται. ἐς δὲ τὰς ἐπιτάσεις αὐτῶν ἀπέκειραν τὰς γυναῖκας, τριχὼν ἑτέρων ἀπορία ("And they constructed as many catapults as they could. And to keep them taut they shaved their women's heads, in default of other material").—Q. V. Q., Oxford.

WHY IS THE ISLE OF MAN SO CALLED?—The discovery of the marvellous inscription of Kirk Braddyn furnishes an answer that would delight the author of the "Vestiges" himself. But does your querist doubt the authority of the Scandinavian bard Snorriyolch, or the veracity of his informant, the Druid Drafysh! Does he question the development of the noble similes through the quadrumans into man? And will he favour us, through your columns, with a facsimile of this rare specimen of Norse literature? With respect to the natural productions of the island, your querist forgets that in those distant ages the monkey isle must have been tropical, and its fruits appropriate to the noble simia; and unless, in the course of his researches in that interesting island, he is rewarded by the discovery of some rudiment of a tail among its present inhabitants, I fear that science will be at fault in its investigation of the properties of the modern productions of its degenerate soil. But was this Isle of Monkeys really the Mona of the ancients? It is true that Caesar's Mona was said to lie midway between Britain and Ireland; but surely Caesar's Mona was the Mona of Tacitus also; and I doubt whether Suetonius could have persuaded "his choicest auxiliaries"—good swimmers as they were, even his gallant 11th—to have charged the Isle of Man from the mainland, in face of a motley array of armed men and Druids, under a flanking fire of execrations from female furies (Tac. An. L. 14, 29) armed with torches. No, the Mona of Tacitus was Anglesey; strange as it may seem that the stronghold of British Druidism should have lost all traces of its ancient masters, and be only known as the Isle of Angles.—FORDINGTON.

BEGGAR-BANGER.—One of your correspondents asks if the office of Beggar-banger was known elsewhere than in the place he named. I can tell him, that previous to the introduction of Poor-laws in Ireland, both at Belfast and Ballymena, there were what were called mendicity associations for relieving the resident poor and giving badges to the deserving, entitling them to beg; and in each town there was a kind of beadle called a bang-beggar, to take up or chase mendicants away from the locality.—HIBERNICUS.

In the parish books of St. Werburgh, Derby, under date 1735, appears a minute of the appointment of one James Alton as "Bang-beggar" for the parish; and the office was known under that name within easy memory in Lancashire, if not elsewhere.—DERBYSHIRE CLUB.

The town of Lancaster had an officer called the "Bat-beggar," or "Beat the beggar," whose office was to keep the town-hall, fish-stores, &c., and to put any unruly rogue into the black hole, which in Lancaster is denominated the "Kid-cote."—EDWD. D. SCOTT, Vicarage, Carlisle, Isle of Wight.

ARMS AT BOSTON VICARAGE.—"The arms of Bardney Abbey were sable, a crossier in pale between two crowns towards the chief, being run through an annulet towards the top, or, and a snake entwined at the bottom, arg."—Cole MS., viii. 6. The church of St. Botolph, Boston, belonged to the Abbey of St. Mary, at York, and probably the arms are those of one of the abbots. I should not wonder if they proved to be those of Pigott, of the family who carried "Gu. a fesse arg. between three bezants."—MACKENZIE WILCOTT, M.A.

LEGACY OF A BED.—A bed was sometimes left as a bequest. To Bishop Braybrooke William of Wykeham left his state bed at Wolsesey Castle, with the set of crimson tapestry which belonged to it.—MACKENZIE WILCOTT, M.A.

CULVERT RENT (Boston), culvertage, or culvertagium according to Mat Paris, was explained by some authorities to be derived from culum and vertere to turn tail, culverd meaning a coward. According to other authorities the word signified the confiscation of an estate, or forfeiture of the vassal lands to the lord. Now as the tenant or vassal was bound by the nature of the tenure under which he held, to attend his lord to the wars, and to neglect to do so, or to desert his lord in the field of battle before the latter was mortally wounded, would have caused a forfeiture of his estate, it is probable that the rent mentioned by your correspondent was in its origin a monetary commutation for this military service, and in those warlike days might have received the appellation of coward's rent.—GAB.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

CARADAWE is requested to communicate his address to the Rev. John Mason, Sherburn Vicarage, Malton, Yorkshire.

G. JONES.—According to the age of the parents.

F. R. F. and Addison's "Cato." G. C. James-street, must be good enough to repeat the question. We have no recollection of it.

G. H.—It was given in our last Christmas Number.

INPOCTA; W. BROWN, Newcastle.—The custom of making what are called "April fools" is very ancient and very general. It is prevalent even in India; but the origin is not known.

HIBERNICUS.—The characters named are in Disraeli's novel of "Coningsby."

THE CONSTABLE FAMILY.—If "Antiquarian" will send his name and address, a correspondent promises to furnish him with some information relative to this family.

CHARLES EGAN.—Your communication upon the subject of the Marriage Service would require more space than we can spare.

GENEVA JEDS.—Received with thanks.

B. C. Y.—What is the origin?

SURIENSIS should give his name and address.

MUSICA.—The music of "Rule Britannia" was composed by Dr. Arne for the masque "Alfred," and first performed in the gardens of Clifden-house, Aug. 1, 1740.

SARACENUS.—The use of the pronoun *hi*, as Greenwood *hi* book, &c., was merely a mannerism of English writers at one time. The genitive or possessive case, both in the ancient Saxon and in the modern German, in certain declensions terminates in *es*, and that is what we have retained in modern English.

BIBLIOPHILE.—Can our correspondent favour us with a sight of the Latin poem containing "an exposition of an electric telegraph?" It shall be carefully preserved and returned.

EGMONT DIARY.—The use of the pronoun *hi*, as Greenwood *hi* book, &c., was merely a mannerism of English writers at one time. The genitive or possessive case, both in the ancient Saxon and in the modern German, in certain declensions terminates in *es*, and that is what we have retained in modern English.

EGMONT DIARY.—In our extracts from these entertaining papers last week there is a slight typographical error which may have misled some of our readers. In the exclamation of the Prussian officer to his King, the word "des" is spelt "des." The passage should run:—"A vous, mais vous êtes mon Roy."

CURIOUS JEDS.—Received with thanks.

A. P. A. SUBSCRIBER.—We cannot afford space or the verses.

J. B. Paris.—We are obliged by your explanations, but the letter containing them is too lengthy for this part of the paper.

RECEIVED.—Salopienis Alumnus, F. G. R. J. W. W. Sevenbanks; A. Saxon, J. M. C. Birnigham; Gar. R. B. Deppon; J. Noddy of London; A. K. Falconer, Mon. J. G. G. Unwin; H. S. J. N. Burwood, Sobieski, A. P. Subscribes, M. T. D. C. L. A., Briggs, F. W. R., Bury St. Edmunds; J. Morgan, C. T. T. S. W. J. W. T. B., Conventiensis, Ralph, J. T. A. Cantab, Borderer, Monkbaras, Glentit, Observer, E. H. A. Sobieski, Bernard, C. M. A. A. Honbano, A. M., I. I. M., A. Barrister W. Collinson, W. L., Raymond Delacourt, C. Francis, T. Dumfries, J. A. Shaw.

CHESS.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

W. C. C.—Stalemate makes a drawn game. It is to be hoped that when the new Chess Laws are published, we shall be spared the necessity of answering this and similar questions.

T. Bouligny.—We are still uninformed of the state of the contest between MM. St. Amant and De Rivière. Our last Chess news from the French capital announces the arrival of M. La Roche, and speaks of a match on the *lapis* between this eminent player and M. de Rivière, but gives no particulars.

R. P., West-onuper-Mare.—Solutions to be acknowledged this same week should reach our office by Tuesday morning.

SIOB.—To take the King's Pawn with Pawn.

C. L., North Carolina.—It shall have due attention. Your former Problem we believe was published but we cannot at the moment tell when.

C. B., Dundee; H. T. S., J. B., W. G.—In the Examiner's hands.

A. L., Melbourne.—Thanks for your very interesting communication. We do rejoice to hear that a test for Chess is rapidly developing itself in the gold colony, and hope that every encouragement will be given to that and all other amusements of refining and intellectual tendency. The Problems—Chess Problems from the *Digings*!—shall have a corner, if only for the novelty of their birthplace, though they deserve it probably for their merit.

J. H. F., Hatton-garden; C. T., of Brighton.—Under consideration.

J. O. Ipswich.—Some of the Games you mention, if we mistake not, were published, at the time they were played, in this Journal.

SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEM No. 632, by Ajax, T. W. S., C. J. B., Arun, Q. R. of Sunderland, R. P. are correct.

SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEM No. 633, by F. R. S., Ernest, T. Simpson, W. T. B., Q. Yorke, Derby, Onyx, Madge, Old Salt, Murdoch, Phil-Ches., M. P., Major, Gregory, William, Konienses, D. D., Perseus, Cantab, E. F. Norwood, D. T. N., Argent, W. H. Moss, Digby, C. B. D., Prices are correct.

SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEM No. 634, by Derwent, F. R., of Norwich; A. B. C., Delta, G. H. T., Mirarda, Fred. T., Derby, J. de Rixton, W. H. Moss, are correct. All others are wrong.

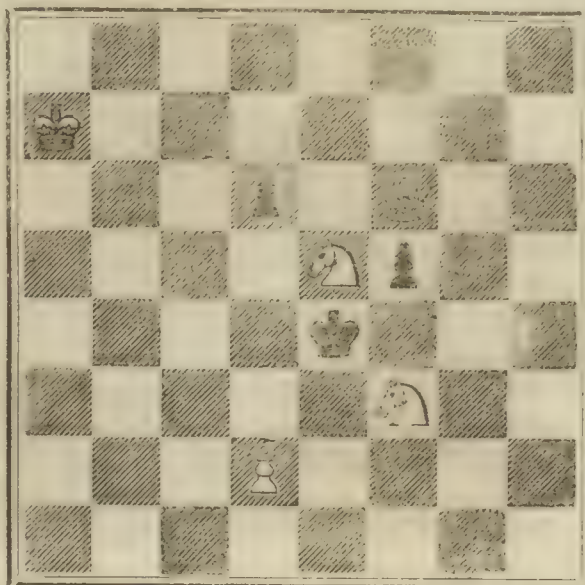
ERRATUM.—In the notice to H. D., in our last week's Chess Column, instead of "an official and trustworthy Secretary," read "an efficient and trustworthy Secretary."

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 632.			
WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1. Q to K 3rd.	P to K R 5th, or (a)	2. Q takes Q P (ch)	B takes Q
(a) 1.	B takes Kt (ch)	3. P to Q B 4th—Mate.	
2. Q takes B (ch)	K moves	3. Q to her B 4th—Mate.	

PROBLEM No. 635.

By J. B., of Bridport.

BLACK.



White to play, and mate in three moves.

A GAME OF CHESS WITHOUT SIGHT OF THE BOARD.

(Concluded from our last Number.)

The following day, the vanquished, having returned from Blanc, we were assembled at La Chollière talking of heaven and earth, of the prowess of our soldiers and sailors in and near the Crimea, of the price of meat at Paris, of the cheap living in France, &c.,—when a cousin of M. de Rivière, who had been present the evening before, said,—"Well, Armons, you won yesterday, it is true, and I saw with inexpressible astonishment the facility with which you unravelled the complications of each move; but it must be admitted that your adversaries did not defend themselves very well." "Oh, my dear cousin," said M. de Rivière, joyously, "when I was pluming myself on my glory, you wish to detract from it!" "That is ill done, I see, as Molière says,—

"Les envieux mourront, mais non jamais l'envie."

"No, my friend, I have no desire to lessen your glory! but if I had the game before my eyes, I would show you that they might have defended themselves better." "The game! What, have you forgotten it?" said M. de Rivière, "I will play it over to you." Having played every move over to his astonished cousin, M. de R. requested him to point out where the defence could be amended, and his cousin remarked that at the seventh move, instead of taking the Kt with the Bishop, he should have played—7. Kt to Q B 4th. Upon this M. de Rivière played—8. Q to K 3rd, and the game proceeded thus—

8. Q to K 3rd	Q B to K 3rd	16. Q to her 3rd	R to K sq
9. P to Q Kt 4th	K Kt to Q 2nd	17. B to K Kt 4th	Q to K 4th
10. P takes P	K B takes P	18. Q to K R 3rd	R to K 2nd
11. K Kt to Q 4th	Q to K B 3rd	19. P to K Kt 3rd	Q to K 5th
12. Q B to Q Kt 2nd	K B to K 4th	20. Q Kt to Q 2nd	Q takes Q B P
13. Kt takes Q B	B takes B	21. Q Kt to Q Kt 3rd	B to Q Kt 7th
14. Kt takes Q B P	K to Q sq	22. R to Q sq	Q to Q B 3rd
(double ch)		23. Q Kt to Q B 5th	B to Q B 6th
15. Kt takes Q R	B takes Q R		

Thus stood the game, and in a position sufficiently complicated; still, M. de Rivière's opponent felicitated himself upon having succeeded so well, when dinner was announced. After dinner, when the evening was pretty far advanced, the cousin once more alluded to the game, and expressed a desire to finish it, challenging M. de R. to accompany him to the drawing-room, where the chess-board remained as they had left it. But M. de R. replied "Go you to the board, I will answer your moves here. I have the game in my head. It is my turn to play, and I move

24. B takes Kt	Kt takes B	30. Q takes Q R P	B to Q Kt 5th
25. Q to K B 5th	B takes Q Kt P	31. Q to K 3rd (ch)	K to B sq
26. Q to K B 4th	R to K 8th (ch)	32. Kt to Q Kt 6th	Q to Q B 3rd
27. B takes R	B takes R	33. P to K R 4th	B to Q K 4th
28. Kt takes Kt	Q takes Kt	34. Q to Q R 3rd (ch)	K to Kt sq
29. Q to Q Kt 8th	K to K 2nd	35. Q takes B	Q to B 8th (ch)
(ch)		36. K to R 2nd, and wins.	

It must be remarked that White's 33rd move was a subtle snare on the part of the blindfold player; for if Black, thinking to win the Kt, had played B to Q 4th, he must have lost a piece, because the Queen would have taken the Bishop; and if Black took the K, the Kt would have checked K and Q, &c. It must also be noticed that Black's mistake at move 33 was caused by a servant entering to tell the player that some one wished to speak to him. He had observed the stratagem of his adversary, and complimented him upon it: but in his eagerness to go out, he rose hastily, played his move without reflection, and thus lost a game which would probably have terminated as a drawn battle."—Abridged from an article in *La Régence*.

Huddersfield Chess-Club.—The annual meeting of this flourishing club was held at the Imperial Hotel on Saturday, March 29th. The rooms were open for play at four p.m., when a match was commenced between the leading members of the Huddersfield and Wakefield Clubs: the former town being represented by Messrs. John Watkinson, D. Marsden, — Tarn, and G. H. Taylor; and the latter, by Messrs. E. Shepherd, W. L. Robinson, W. Hunter, and C. S. Bennett. It was agreed that two games should be played between each couple of competitors (inclusive of drawn games), and that the players, as nearly as possible, should be matched according to their respective strength, when they stood as follows:—

Huddersfield.	against	Wakefield.
Mr. T. Watkinson	..	Mr. Shepherd
" D. Marsden	..	" Robinson
" — Tarn	..	" Hunter
" G. H. Taylor	..	" Bennett

Mr. Watkinson won the first game of Mr. Shepherd, and drew the second. Both the games between Messrs. Marsden and Robinson were drawn. Messrs. Tarn and Hunter each succeeded in winning one game; and Mr. Taylor drew the first, and won the second game from Mr. Bennett. The total score thus giving—

Huddersfield, 3. Wakefield, 1. Drawn games, 4.

We understand this is the first match that the Huddersfield Club have engaged in, and the result must be very gratifying to them, matched as they were against such veteran players. At seven p.m. the company adjourned for refreshment; after which chess play was kept up between the members of the two clubs with great animation until a late hour of the evening.

* For the opening moves see our last week's number.

THE FALKLAND ISLANDS.



STANLEY HARBOUR, PORT WILLIAM.

THE Falkland Islands form an extensive group, situated between the parallels of 51 deg. and 52 deg. 25 min. south lat., and 57 deg. 42 min. and 61 deg. 30 min. west longitude. They consist of two large islands, separated by a strait called Falkland Sound, and there are nearly 200 smaller islands studding the coasts, more particularly on the east and west sides. The climate is, although subject to frequent gales of wind, mild as to temperature—the thermometer rarely falling under 25 deg. Fahr. in the winter, and seldom exceeding 72 deg. in the summer. European vegetables and green crops succeed well, but from want of shelter the attempts to raise corn have not been successful.

Their first discovery is claimed by Davis, Hawkins, and others, about the close of the sixteenth century, who seem to have visited them in their exploring expeditions round Cape Horn to the western coasts of South America; but no attempt was made to found settlements until 1763, when, almost simultaneously, England, France, and Spain took possession of them in different situations; and, after serious disputes as to their

rights, Spain purchased the cession of the French claims, and dispossessed forcibly the English from Port Egmont. To revenge this insult a strong squadron was fitted out in England; but when nearly ready to sail the quarrel was compromised by Spain giving up her occupation of Port Egmont and by abandonment of the islands. The English flag was re-hoisted; but subsequently England withdrew her establishment and suspended any further attempts at that time to colonise.

Until about 1825 the Falkland Islands seem to have been resorted to by Spanish, English, French, and American whaling and sealing vessels indiscriminately, without any of them exercising recognised sovereignty. About that period, however, some cattle and horses which had been put on the east island by Monsieur de Bougainville (during his occupation as leader of the French settlement in 1764) attracted notice from their greatly increased numbers, showing evidently that the climate and the pasturage were favourable for those animals; and the Buenos Ayres Government, pretending to claim the islands as successor to the rights of

Spain in those latitudes, established a small colony under Don Luis Vernet at the old settlement of Port Louis in Berkeley Sound. This gentleman attempted to maintain with a strong hand the unwarrantable authority which he held, and seized two United States' American schooners which were sealing on the rookeries, which he claimed as the property of Buenos Ayres. The condemnation of these schooners, the confinement of the crews by Monsieur Vernet, and the subsequent destruction of his settlement by a United States' ship of war, the *Lexington* followed shortly afterwards. On hearing of those events, the British Government sent H.M.S. *Clio*, in 1833, to resume possession of the islands, asserting that England had only suspended occupation, but had never abandoned the rights of sovereignty which she claimed by priority of discovery, and which had been acknowledged by France and Spain by treaty in 1774.

Until 1842 a naval officer, with a small vessel of war in charge of the flag, kept possession at Port Louis; when Lord John Russell determined to



THE SPANISH-AMERICAN GUACHOS CATCHING WILD HORSES, IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS.

THE FALKLAND ISLANDS.



ENCOUNTER OF A SEALER WITH A SEA-LION, IN A TUSSAC BOG.

prepare for constituting the Falkland Islands a British colony; and an officer of Engineers, now Colonel Moedy, was sent out as Lieutenant-Governor. In 1845 a Royal charter incorporated the islands formally as a British colony, and promoted the Lieutenant-Governor to full governmental powers. The settlement at Port Louis having been found difficult of access for damaged ships against the prevailing westerly winds, it was resolved about the same time to remove the seat of Government to Stanley Harbour, Port William, on the extreme easterly point of the East Island (See the first Engraving). The entrance to Port William is made conspicuous by a handsome cast-iron lighthouse lately erected on Cape Pembroke, showing a steady, brilliant light; and about five miles up Port William is a narrow entrance of deep water into Port Stanley, which is five miles long by half-a-mile broad, with excellent anchorage for large ships close to the town. The principal value of these islands to Great Britain consists in their geographical position, forming the only half-way

touching port, or port of refuge for the whole of the outward-bound trade to the Pacific and the west coasts of the Americas, and in the direct homeward track of the Australian and New Zealand commerce.

The port of Stanley is entirely free for ships of all nations. No Custom dues are levied, and, from the facility of entrance, pilotage is optional; nor are any anchorage or port charges whatsoever exacted. Supplies of all kinds, with the means of refitting damaged vessels, are readily procurable, and at much more reasonable prices than in the South American ports.

Besides wild cattle, horses, and pigs, sheep have been of late years introduced, and the growth of wool commenced under promising aspects. The islands abound with wild fowl of various kinds, and rabbits in myriads; whales, sea-elephants, and seals are plentiful around the coasts, and large quantities of mullet are caught in the creeks.

In the foreground of this View there are plants of the Tussac grass

(*Dactylis cespitosa*) and Balsam bogs (*Bolan glebaria*). The latter is thus described by Sir W. Hooker:—

Living or dead and dried, it could not but be desirable that so remarkable a vegetable production should be brought to England; but all our attempts to procure it were in vain till the present time (February, 1856), when the late Governor of the Falkland Islands, George Rennie, Esq., had the extreme kindness, and with no small labour and expense, to bring home with him a very fine specimen for the museum of the Royal Gardens, Kew, and in the most perfect state of preservation. At the railway station the single box, with its solitary specimen, including the soft packing materials (filamentous lichens) was found to weigh 547 lbs. Deducting the strong case, 234 lbs., and the soft packing, 10 lbs., we have 303 lbs., as the actual weight of the specimen. It was an interesting occupation for stay-at-home travellers to witness the opening of the case. The very packing stuff had charms for the cryptogamic botanist, consisting, as was observed, of the filamentous lichens of the country. They



SEA-LIONS, IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS.

consisted of noble specimens of the *Usnea melanantha*, a species both arctic and antarctic, and inhabiting the higher mountains of the Andes, even under the Equator; several states of the ubiquitous *Ramalina scopulorum*, severally in copious fructification; and no better package could possibly have been employed. They retained a certain degree of moisture, were soft and elastic, not in the least disposed to heat or decay; all looked as fresh and as bright-coloured as if they had been that day gathered from their native rocks—a lesson for those who have occasion to pack many living plants for long voyages.

On the removal of the lichens, the hummock of the *Bolax glebaria* came fully into view. Its broad base rested firmly on the bottom of the box; it required four men to remove it. Its shape is an irregular hemisphere, 2 feet high, 3½ feet broad in its greatest diameter; the circumference at the base is 10 feet; and it measured from side to side, carrying the line over the summit, 8 feet 3 inches. Externally it forms a compact, nearly even crust, consisting of the stellate, or rosulated ultimate shoots of the plant, so closely packed that not a pin's breadth of vacancy can be perceived between them. Beneath is a cavity—how deep we know not—occupied by decayed vegetable matter, the detritus of former years, root, and stem, and leaves—a perfectly black soft mould. This has not only afforded nutriment to the surviving limbs of the parent plant, but to a foreigner also. There has emerged from the side of the crust, near the base, a very fine specimen of the *Empetrum rubrum* (an exact representation of our northern cranberry, *Empetrum nigrum*, only bearing red instead of black berries), a tuft a foot in length; and from the very summit of the bolax rises another specimen of *Empetrum*, forming a crest to the hummock."—*Abridged from the "Transactions of the Kew Museum."*

The second illustration shows the mode in which the wild horses are caught in the Falkland Islands by the Spanish-American Gauchos, who are chiefly employed in cattle-farming operations. Taking in his hand two or three stone or lead balls, attached each to the end of a strong cord, the other ends of which are fastened together, the Gaucho gives chase on horseback to the wild animals, swinging the balls round his head in a circle, and, when near enough, he throws them at the hind legs of the horse he selects. The balls, by the centrifugal force, twist round the legs of the animal, who rolls over and is immediately secured. In the landscape may be seen one of those remarkable streams of stones, so frequently met with in the Falkland Islands, crossing the quartz strata of the mountains. They resemble macadamised roads in many respects, although the stones are of Brobdingnag dimensions, varying in size from 1 cwt. to five tons in weight. At a distance they frequently resemble streams of water with small islands and cascades.

The third engraving represents an encounter of a sealer with a sealion in a Tussac bog. The male of the Falkland seal resembles in no slight degree in the head and mane the king of the forest. He is, when full grown, about ten feet long, and, although not disposed to make an attack, is a most formidable antagonist to come upon unawares in the thick groves of the Tussac, where, more particularly in the breeding seasons, he with his family are found. The female is scarcely one-half the size of the male, and is more gentle in disposition.

In some of the smaller islands, which are generally covered with Tussac grass, the seals congregate in great numbers, called rookeries; and, to avoid the danger of attacking them under cover, the sealers set fire to the grass, which, of course, obliterates the alarmed inhabitants to scamper helter-skelter down their pathways to the sea, on the road to which they are attacked and slain in great numbers for their oil and skins. A group of sealions is engraved in the fourth illustration.

We are indebted for the accompanying Sketches to the courtesy of Mr. George Rennie, F.S.S., late Governor of the Falkland Islands.

ARCTIC EXPLORATION.

THE following important and interesting paper, by Mr. R. White of East Cowes, has lately been read before the Royal Geographical Society, communicated by John Barrow, Esq., F.R.S., &c., Admiralty:—

The return of Dr. Kane's American expedition having furnished us with a corroboration of our long-entertained opinions of an "open Polar Sea," induces me to lay before you a model and diagrams illustrating the subject; not that it is not familiar to our scientific and able navigators who have severally expressed their opinions on the subject; but the reason why such opinions were not more theory have not been generally known and published.

I desire, therefore, to lay before you, in a very simple manner, some of the principal reasons why, from known "physical causes," such an open Polar Sea should be the "fact," and—

1st. I would mention the inclination of the earth from the Pole of 23½ degrees in its revolution round the sun (causing our seasons) will of itself show the poles of cold at the northern and southern extremities of the globe must be 23½ degrees from the actual Pole or axis of the globe, in consequence of its diurnal revolution around the inclined Pole instead of around a centre directly opposite the sun, supposing the configuration of land and sea to be equal, and the currents of the ocean not to affect it. That they do so does not affect the principle, but illustrate it. The model on the table shows the action of the sun at both Poles—the northern hemisphere being enlightened while the southern is in darkness. The globe has been cut in two at 23½ degrees, the better to show the subject at one view.

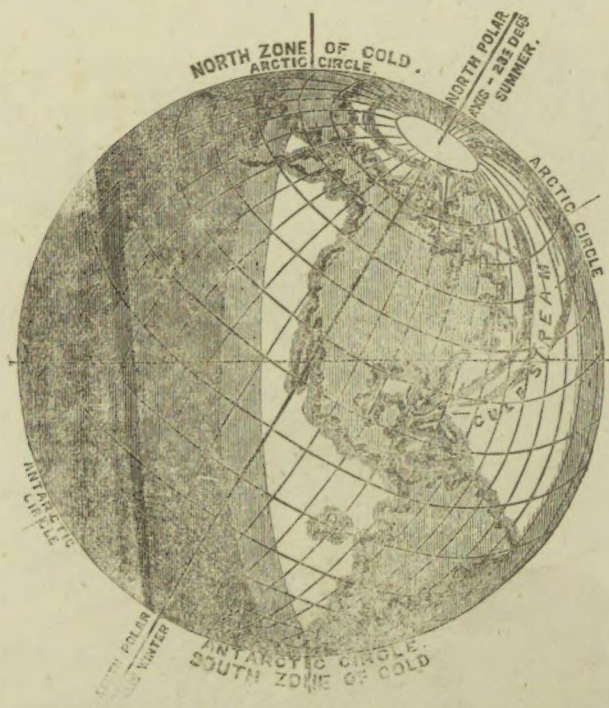


DIAGRAM NO. 1, SHOWING THE INCLINATION OF THE AXIS OF THE EARTH TO THE SUN, VIZ. 23½ DEGREES.

The Gulf Stream, as seen in Diagram No. 1, passing to the north of the Hebrides, and entering the Polar Sea between the North Cape and Spitzbergen, carrying with it its heat acquired in the tropics, causes a milder temperature on the shores of Great Britain and Norway; and, entering the Great Polar Sea, makes its circuit along the Russian shores, past Behring's Strait, and returns by McClure's Strait, Barrow's Strait, and its tributary straits, by Martin's Strait and Wellington Channel, into Baffin's Bay and Davis's Strait to the North Atlantic Ocean. The outlet at Behring's Strait being so narrow, and the depth of water across its entrance so shallow—from seventeen to twenty fathoms only—causes the drift ice and bergs to ground and form the impenetrable pack-ice, not possible for any sailing ships to pass through (steam has not been tried), except in open lanes between the grounded ice and the shore. The drift ice set loose from the Great Polar Basin, is thus compelled to return by the route before mentioned. This is proved, not only by the difficulties the whalers and all the expeditions have experienced in forcing their passage upwards against the current and masses of drift ice and enormous icebergs of land formation that are yearly detached from the shore to drift with the downward current till the combined action of the sun and water gradually cause them to disappear about the parallel of Newfoundland (though sometimes they are fallen in with by the American packet-ships on their passage to New York); but by the drift in the pack of Sir James Ross's expedition from Leopold Island in 1849; by the winter drift of the American expedition, *Rescue and Advance*, from Wellington Channel to Diaseo in 1850; and now the still later drift of the *Resolute*, Captain Kellier's ship, from Melville Sound, where she was abandoned in 1854, and picked

up by the *American*, in 1855, in Davis's Strait, and towed in safety into New London, in America. That it is a constant stream, except when disturbed by adverse winds, the voyages of Captains McClure and Collinson abundantly show; they having succeeded in navigating their deeply-laden sailing ships along that coast without meeting with so much actual difficulty as has been experienced in Melville Bay; and had they had the advantage of steam-power, no doubt would have accomplished much more.

The length of the day at the Pole, as shown in Diagram No. 2, from the time of the sun's rising to its setting, is six months of constant daylight; during which time, from its first appearance above the horizon, it shines in one direction, rising gradually in a perpendicular direction for three months, until it has attained its greatest altitude, and then sinking daily until it disappears entirely for the next six months. The heat that would arise from such constant action in one direct line (though its altitude is small) must be great; and from its constantly infusing heat in one direction, sufficient to melt any quantity of ice in its vicinity. Every degree we come from it, as the earth revolves

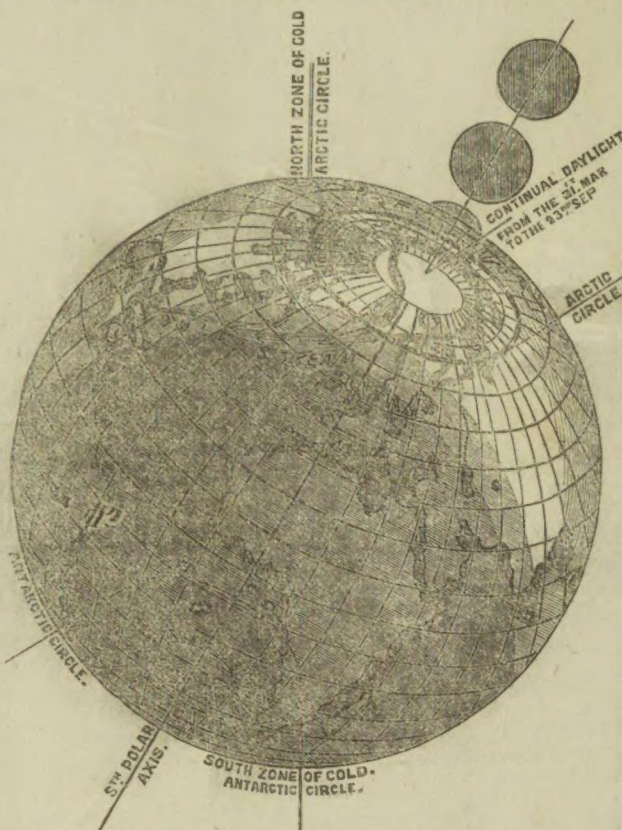


DIAGRAM NO. 2, SHOWING THE POSITIONS OF THE SUN AT THE NORTH POLE DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS.

round its axis daily, causes an apparent motion of the sun, and a consequent loss of power; and when we get beyond 23½ deg., where it sinks below the horizon daily, the loss is total; for the time of its absence, and the absorption of heat during that time by the atmosphere has to be replaced on its rising before it regains the temperature it had lost and can receive any permanent addition. The latent heat required to be infused into ice to heat it 1 deg., so that it will melt into water at a temperature of 32 deg., or the freezing point, is 140 deg.; or water will gain 140 deg. of heat, while ice is merely melted into water at 32 deg. (see Arnot's Elements of Physics, section "Heat," p. 88). Had the latent heat of water been only 1 or 2 deg., instead of 140 deg., the earth, except in its tropical regions, would have been scarcely habitable. The cold of a single night might have frozen an ocean, and the heat of a single day have converted the accumulated snows of a winter into one sudden and frightful inundation; the Mer de Glace, in Switzerland might be melted in a summer's day, and cause destruction to the country around. As the fact is, however, both changes are beautifully gradual, and easily controlled or prepared for.

The latent heat of 140 degrees, required before ice will melt, has thus to be reproduced at each sunrise, and the work to be done over again every day. While at the Pole itself, and wherever the sun does not sink below the horizon within the Arctic circle, from the time of its making its appearance, it gives heat, and continues gaining power of melting the ice without such loss or diminution. These causes alone would seem to be a sufficient reason to account for the open water seen by Barentz when wintering at Nova Zembla, in 1597 (See "Beechey's Voyages by the North and East," from page 162). "On the 22nd of February, when they saw much open water in the sea, and on the 8th of March, with a south-west storm, and great store of snow, whereby we could see no ice north-east nor round about in the sea, whereby we were of opinion that north-east from us there was a great sea, but not towards Tartaria to the southward. And on the 10th, it was clear weather, the wind north, at which time we saw quite an open sea, whereupon we said one to another that, if the ship were loose, we might venture to sail away."

The same appearances of an open sea have since been seen by Captain Penny and Sir Edward Belcher in Victoria Channel, and now by Dr. Kane to such an extent as to make it questionable whether at the Pole the sea ever freezes to any great depth.

Cold being but the absence of heat, while the great natural source of heat is the sun, the heat from whose rays is a sensible reality,—it follows that such heat, continued for six months without loss or diminution, as previously named, would, after melting the surface ice of an ocean of any considerable depth, raise the temperature of such ocean, increasing also as the depth from the natural heat of the earth, as we descend, so considerably, that it would require a long time for the air to abstract its latent heat of 140 degrees, so as to form a surface ice. As ice expands by crystallising in the process of freezing, and thus acquiring bulk rises to the surface, it forms a natural barrier to the further absorption of heat by the atmosphere, and keeps the water below it from losing its temperature. Thus it is not probable ice can under such circumstances form to any great thickness in an open sea, and would require the presence of land to accumulate glaciers of frozen snow of sufficient thickness to resist the returning action of the sun's rays.

In Colonel Sabine's account of Baron Wrangel's voyages from Siberia to the Polar Sea, he says the thickness of ice formed in a single season (where we consider the greatest cold to be) is about nine and a half feet, and those to the north and west of Spitzbergen to be from nine to ten feet in thickness. Baron Wrangel's endeavours, by means of sledges in the spring, to cross this ice to the northward, repeated during three years and from many different points, terminated alike in conducting them to an open and navigable sea. From whatever point of the coast their departure was taken, the result was invariably the same. After an ice journey of more or less continuance, they arrived where further progress was impossible; where, to use the words of Baron Wrangel, "We beheld the wide immeasurable ocean spread before our gaze—a fearful and magnificent, but to us a melancholy spectacle. Fragments of ice of enormous size floated on the surface of the agitated ocean, and were thrown by the waves against the edge of the ice-field, on the further side of the channel before us. We could go no further. According to my reckoning, we were in 70.51 N., and 175.27 E. We had 22½ fathoms water, with a clay bottom."

Again in Captain Parry's adventurous voyage to cross the ice in boat sledges from Spitzbergen to the northward,—the greatest distance from the ship reached was 172 miles, to reach which they had travelled 668 miles, and there the continued drift of the body of the ice showed that there was an open space both in the direction of its course and in that it had drifted from. The sea was 500 fathoms deep, and there seemed to be nothing more to impede a vessel's course than there was met with near the margin—that is, a sea covered with broken fields of ice, which might open or close with the tide. We may infer from its motion day after day, in a south-westerly direction, that there must be a considerable space of open water in its "rear."

It is seen from this that the great obstacle which obstructed Parry and Buchan's progress was a barrier of drifting ice stretching from Spitzbergen to Greenland, and generally in motion. Southward no such barrier exists on the Nova Zembla side, where the Gulf Stream enters, and it still remains to see what with the aid of steam can be accomplished there, where none have followed since Barentz led the way.

I cannot conclude without hoping, now that the return of the Hudson's Bay expedition has brought no farther intelligence than the confirmation of a boat party having reached and perished at Montreal Island, some further steps will be taken (as the only memorial we can do) to recover the lost records of the missing expedition. The remains of the ship cannot be far off, and can be reached, and no doubt valuable records found. I doubt not such men as Captain Collinson and Captain Osborne would find no difficulty

in doing so; and, if I am correctly informed, they have expressed their opinions to that effect. If they cannot be spared, there are others who are ready; and surely we must all wish to bear this last tribute to the memory of Sir John Franklin and his gallant companions.

R. WHITE.

UNIVERSAL AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITION AT PARIS.—Between the 23rd May and 7th June next an Exhibition of Foreign and French Breeding Stock, Agricultural Implements, and Produce, will take place in Paris, on a scale of great magnificence and liberality. For English cattle the following prizes are offered, viz.—for Shorthorns, eight premiums, amounting to £193; Her-fords, four premiums, amounting to £162; Devon, Sussex, and analogous breeds four premiums, amounting to £102; Ayrshire, Alderney, and analogous breeds, £170, in £10 premiums; and for all other English, Scotch, and Irish breeds not specified, £122, in six premiums. Handsome premiums are also offered for the following foreign breeds, all, without exception, dairy stock, viz.—Dutch and analogous breeds; Swiss—viz., Fribourg, Berne, and analogous breeds; Schwitz and analogous breeds; German and Danish breeds, Piedmont and Italian breeds. The French breeds are divided into the following categories:—Pure Normandy, pure Charollais, pure Garonne and Agen, which includes Gascony and Bazois cattle; pure Fraise Comte; pure mountain breeds, of Salers, Aubrac, Auvergne, and Limousin, pure Parthenay, which includes the Cholet and Nantes breeds, and pure Brittany breeds. This list makes known several pure breeds unknown before to most English breeders. sheep, for which also very handsome premiums are offered, are divided into Merinoes, French and foreign, Leicesters and New Kents, and long-wooled analogous breeds (this will include Cotswolds), Southdowns, and cross-breeds of Merinoes. Pigs—in the list of which appear several names new to our farmers, as, for instance, Crevecoeur and Breda—turkeys, geese, ducks, pigeons, pheasants, guinea-fowl, rabbits, and goats, are not forgotten. The French Government pays the expenses of the transit of foreign animals and implements from the frontier to Paris, and relieves the Customs duties to forward sales of stock after the Exhibition has closed. It is believed that England will be extremely well represented by our principal breeders and implement makers, and that Paris will be visited by a larger number of tenant farmers than have ever before crossed the Strait at the same time on the same errand. Those who visited the Great Exhibition last year brought back a report of the manner in which they were treated by our allies that has produced quite a travelling fermentation in our most rural and least travelling districts. The Central Farmers' Club are arranging a rendezvous, and other advantages, for those of their members who assemble in Paris at this Great International Agricultural Exhibition, and will probably hold the first truly agricultural dinner ever gathered together at the "Trois Freres."

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

HANDSWORTH.—Roman brass coin of the third size, of the Emperor Probus, A.D. 276-282, very common.

T. B. W.—The crown of 1847 is worth a few shillings beyond its current value. BRAINTREE.—Subscriber B.—We cannot decipher the impression, but it appears to have been taken from a Castile amulet.

R. D. G.—Prince Louis Philippe Albert d'Orleans, Count de Paris, was born the 24th Aug., 1838. The remains of Napoleon arrived from St. Helena at Cherbourg, on the 18th Nov., 1840: they were brought to the Hotel des Invalides on the 15th Dec., in the same year.

I. I.—The Earl Powis, who was killed by so unfortunate an accident in 1848, was 63 years of age at the time of his death. His son and successor, the present Earl, is 37 years old. The contest for the Chancellorship of Cambridge University took place in Feb., 1847.

I. W.—Napoleon, present Emperor of the French, was born at Paris on the 20th April, 1808: his Consort, Eugenie, was born the 5th May, 1826: they were married the 29th Jan. 1853.

SWEDE.—Charles Louis Napoleon Bonaparte, now Napoleon III., was the youngest of the three sons of the late King of Holland, by his wife the Queen Hortense. It was the second son Napoleon Louis, who was Grand Duke of Berg and Cleves, and who died of fatigue, in the Bolognese expedition, on the 17th March, 1831.

DOUTEUX.—The duty of billeting belongs to the constables of parishes, and application should be made to them.

S. F.—The Queen of England, after her accession to the throne, could have married any person, whether subject or otherwise, provided such person was not a Roman Catholic.

E. I. S.—It would appear that the title of Right Hon. is only given to such Commoners as are Privy Counsellors; yet the Lords Mayor of London, York, and Dublin bear the title, though not members of the Privy Council.

LADY E.—The Christian name of the Consort of Francis Joseph, present Emperor of Austria, is Elizabeth. The Emperor Ferdinand is the Sovereign who abdicated in 1848. The Almanach de Gotha is published in French and German, but not in English. An English translation once appeared in 1830, but there has been none since. Some portion of its regal information is given in the *Illustrated London Almanac* of this year.

WOODCUT should address the Secretary of the Art-Union, Glasgow.

T. W. S., Pimlico.—Received.

A. F. JEREMIE, Hayti.—We have not space for the estimate of the cost of a railway-tube across the British Channel, which may be said to be in nubibus, if not in fluctibus.

J. SMITH, Nottingham.—Normandy's patent for his circular weaving-machine is dated 13th August, 1855.

SEBASTOPOL.—Correspondents are thanked for the Sketches of the Camp of the 72nd Highlanders, and of the old Russian Picket-house; although they are not sufficiently striking for illustration.

KIDONI.—The price of the new little book, "Things not Generally Known," is 3s. 6d. Our Correspondent does not state what kind of work on British Birds he requires.

P. R. is thanked.

M. H. R.—Apply to Messrs. Hemming, Clift Works, Bristol.

AN OLD SUBSCRIBER, Blackburn.—Received.

AN OLD OXONIAN.—We cannot inform you.

W. G. C., Ormskirk.—We have not room.

Lieut. M., Malta, is thanked for his clever sketch on the Bosphorus. We have already engraved the same locality.

T. L.—The patronage of the Royal Navy is lodged solely with the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, and principally with the first Lord. The full annual pay of a midshipman is £31 5s. 8d.

A SUBSCRIBER.—The scandalous story to which your inquiry refers is that noted in the "Curiosities of London," under St. James's Palace. In the old bed-chamber, now the ante-chamber to the levee-room, was born James (the old Pretender) the son of James II., by Mary of Modena; the bed stood close to the back stairs, and favoured the scandal of the child being conveyed in a warming-pan to the Queen's bed. Cunningham, in his "Handbook," says: "Queen Anne (then the Princess Anne) describes St. James's Palace as much the properest place to act such a cheat in. (Dalrymple, ii., 303-308)."

A SUBSCRIBER.—Glycerine. Mr. G. F. Wilson (of Price's Patent Candle Company) has just reprinted the Lecture he lately delivered before the Society of Arts upon Glycerine and its uses; to which he has appended three short papers:—One, the Paper read to the Society by Mr. Sturtin, Surgeon to the Hospital for Skin Diseases, where this new remedy has been employed amongst nearly 70,000 patients. To Mr. Wilson is the public indebted for scientific improvements in the manufacture of Glycerine, which, says Mr. Sturtin, "has rendered this remedy not only much more certain, because purer, but much cheaper for the general public." The Lecture, &c., may be had of Smith and Son, Strand, for one shilling.

INQUIRER, Folkestone.—Dr. Mantell, the eminent geologist, died in 1851; his portrait appeared, with a memoir, in the *Illustrated London News* for Dec. 4, 1852.

E. G. C.—We have not room for the lines.

E. F., Leamington.—The Maundy penny of Queen Anne. Very common.

J. R. M., South Shields.—The Maunday threepence of George II. Very common.

H. HOWORTH, Rochdale.—We are afraid your coins are forgeries. Send wax impressions of them to Mr. Webster, 17, Great Russell-street, Covent-garden.

J. N. B., Broadway.—Pinkerton on Medals may be consulted to advantage, but his prices will not guide you. The coins of Gallienus are termed *billon*, being a mixture of copper and silver. Collectors place them in their cabinets among the silver, as there are no coins known of Gallienus of pure silver.

HUDDESFIELD.—What you suppose to be a shilling of Edward I. is a very common groat of Edward III. Shillings were first coined in the reign of Henry VII.

PENELOPE.—The principle of circular weaving is applicable to any species of plain weaving, such as linen or calico. It would be unwise to attempt its application to figured fabrics until its efficacy in plain weaving is established. The principle of atmospheric pressure may in some cases be applied advantageously to propel the shuttle.

J., Doncaster.—Before saying what number of feet of four-inch hot-water pipe it will take to heat a room with a floor area of 5000 square feet, it is necessary to know the height of the room, the number and size of the windows, and the temperature required to be maintained. In ordinary rooms, however, it is a usual practice to run a four-inch pipe along one side and one end.

A BATHONIAN.—Half-a-pint of boiling water poured upon a quarter of an ounce of quassia chips, and, when cold, strained and sweetened with sugar or treacle, will destroy flies as effectually as the poisonous "fly-water," and is harmless if drunk in mistake.

P. G., Brighton.—The subject of "Torture in India" is of too painful a nature for illustration. Our Correspondent gives this evidence:—"In 1827, in the city of Madura, in front of the Court-house, as he was walking along the highway, the writer saw about a hundred village accountants, rank and file, undergoing torture, to compel each to assess his village at a higher rental for the year. Next year all the men of three of the writer's own fishing villages were barbarously tortured by the Kitee."

ERRATA.—In the letter of "A German," in the *Illustrated London News* of April 5th, instead of "Nebelungen-Lied," read "Nebelungen-Hort." Instead of "Lickingen," read "Sickingen," the name of the well-known knight of the Reformation. Instead of "a fact," which is again repeated in the *Press*, read "a fault," and instead of "All-Preussen," read "Alt(old)-Preussen."

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